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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, November 19, 2014



LET IT SNOW

Early Winter Pummels Much of United States

Sally Hawthorne clears the sidewalk in front of her house on Duke Street Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, in Kalamazoo, Mich. A November snow storm has dumped as much as a foot of snow in the Kalamazoo area.

(AP Photo/Kalamazoo Gazette, Mark Bugnaski)



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Israel vows harsh response to attack

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel vowed harsh retaliation Tuesday for a Palestinian attack that killed five people and left blood-smeared prayer books and shawls on the floor of a synagogue in Jerusalem — an assault that sharply escalated al-

Jews. President Barack Obama called the attack “horrific” and without justification, urging cooperation from both sides to ease tensions and adding that too many Israelis and Palestinians have died in recent months, Tuesday’s attack, however,

the homes of the attackers. But halting further violence could prove to be a tough challenge as police confront a new threat: Lightly armed assailants from annexed east Jerusalem who hold residency rights that allow them to move freely throughout the country. Netanyahu condemned



Ultra-Orthodox Jews attend the funeral of Moshe Twersky, in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Two Palestinian cousins armed with meat cleavers and a gun stormed a Jerusalem synagogue during morning prayers Tuesday, killing Twersky and three others in the city’s bloodiest attack in years. Police killed the attackers in a shootout.

(AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

ready-high tensions after weeks of religious violence. The attack during morning prayers in the west Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Nof was carried out by two Palestinian cousins wielding meat cleavers, knives and a handgun. They were shot to death by police after the deadliest assault in the holy city since 2008. Four of the dead were rabbis and one was a police officer who died of his wounds hours after the attack. Three of the rabbis were born in the United States and the fourth was born in England, although all held dual Israeli citizenship. Five others were wounded. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the attack, the first time he has done so in the wave of deadly violence against Israelis. But he also called for an end to Israeli “provocations” surrounding Jerusalem’s shrines that are sacred to both Muslims and

appeared to mark a turning point, with the gruesome scene in a house of worship shocking a nation long accustomed to violence. The government released a photo of a meat cleaver it said came from the crime scene. Government video showed blood-soaked prayer books and prayer shawls in the synagogue. A pair of glasses lay under a table, and thick streaks of blood smeared the floor. “I saw people lying on the floor, blood everywhere,” said Yosef Posternak, who was at the synagogue in the quiet neighborhood that has a large community of English-speaking immigrants. “People were trying to fight with (the attackers) but they didn’t have much of a chance,” Posternak told Israel Radio. In one of Israel’s first acts of retaliation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the demolitions of

the deaths of the “innocent and pure Jews.” In a nationally televised address, he accused Abbas of inciting the recent violence and said the Palestinian leader’s condemnation of the attack was insufficient. Hamas, the militant Palestinian group that runs the Gaza Strip, praised the attack. In Gaza, dozens celebrated in the streets, with some offering trays full of candy. The U.S.-born victims were identified as Moshe Twersky, 59, Aryeh Kupinsky, 43, and Kalman Levine, 55. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the British man was Avraham Goldberg, 68, who immigrated to Israel in 1993. It described the four as “rabbis,” an honorific title in the ultra-Orthodox world given to men who are considered pious and learned. Twersky, a native of Boston, was the head of the Toras Moshe Yeshiva, a seminary for English-speaking students. □



In this November 13, 2014 photo, members of the U.S. Army B Company attend a military exercise ‘Iron Sword 2014’, at the Gaizunu Training Range in Pabrade some 38 miles north of the capital Vilnius, Lithuania. The U.S. military’s European Command said Tuesday, Nov. 18 it has ordered its troops to avoid wearing their uniforms when off base, and to ensure the security settings and geolocation functions on their social media pages aren’t “overly revealing.”

(AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis)

US orders its troops across Europe to keep low profile

DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The U.S. military’s European Command said Tuesday it has ordered its troops to avoid wearing their uniforms when off base, and to ensure the security settings and geolocation functions on their social media pages aren’t “overly revealing.” EUCOM spokesman Navy Capt. Greg Hicks would not say what prompted the new directive for the roughly 70,000 U.S. personnel serving in Europe. The order, issued Nov. 10, comes after high-profile attacks on soldiers of American allies Britain and Canada in their home countries. “We continually assess threats to our forces with and alongside our host nation counterparts, and take appropriate measures based on those assessments,” Hicks said in an e-mailed statement to The Associated Press. “We will not get into the specifics of those threats nor the assessments.” EUCOM said it did not know whether other American commands had issued similar directives. The order came two days before three American

sailors were assaulted in Istanbul, Turkey, near where their warship was docked. Protesters shouted “Yankee, go home!” and other slogans, and threw red paint at the sailors, who were not in uniform. They also briefly succeeded in putting white sacks over the sailors’ heads. Last month, a gunman shot and killed a soldier in Ottawa in an attack Prime Minister Stephen Harper called an act of terrorism. Two days before that, a man authorities said was inspired by the Islamic State extremist group ran over two soldiers in a parking lot in Quebec, killing one and injuring the other before being shot to death by police. The attacks raised fears Canada was suffering reprisals for joining the U.S.-led air campaign against IS in Iraq and Syria. Last year in the London suburb of Woolwich, two Islamic extremists ran a British soldier down in a car, then stabbed and hacked him to death in public. One of the men accused in the crime has said they choose the first soldier they spotted, and considered him a “fair target.” □



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Obama orders a full review of hostage policy

RICK GLADSTONE

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Confronting repeated beheadings of U.S. captives by the Islamic State militant group, the Obama administration is reviewing how it seeks to secure the release of U.S. citizens taken hostage overseas.

The review, disclosed by an undersecretary of defense in a letter to a Republican lawmaker, includes how the administration deals with the family members of hostages, some of whom have complained about what they see as an unacceptable refusal by the administration to grant concessions to hostage takers, including ransom payments. Unlike European governments, which have paid many millions of dollars in ransom to win the release of citizens held by the Islamic State and other militant groups, the United States has said it will never pay money to get its citizens back. It also has privately pressured the other governments not to pay.

News of the letter disclosing the policy review was first reported by The Daily Beast website Monday, a day after the Islamic State publicized the beheading of Peter Kassig, 26, an aid worker and former soldier, who was the third U.S. captive of the group to be killed.

The Islamic State is believed to hold one other American. It has also posted beheading videos of two Britons. □

Senate rejects Canada-Texas oil pipeline

DINA CAPIELLO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled Senate rejected legislation Tuesday aimed at forcing completion of a Canada-to Texas oil pipeline, a mas-

that he would veto the bill if it clears Congress.

The Senate voted 59-41 in favor of the legislation, but it needed 60 votes to reach the White House. The Republican-controlled House had passed it overwhelm-

harmful, and said much of the Canadian crude would be exported with little or no impact on America's drive for energy stability.

Delays in approving the pipeline have caused friction between the U.S. and

in the Dec. 6 runoff, had pushed for the vote and beseeched fellow Democrats to support the pipeline, ultimately coming up one vote short.

All 45 Senate Republicans supported the legislation to build the Canada-to-Texas pipeline. Only 14 of 55 Democrats and allied independents joined them, a total that didn't budge despite an appeal delivered by the Louisiana Democrat behind closed doors a few hours before the vote.

It was a severe blow for Landrieu in her race against Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy, who sponsored an identical bill that the House easily passed Friday. However, the outcome of Louisiana's race will not affect control of the Senate next year because the Republicans are already assured of 53 of the chamber's 100 seats. The proposed pipeline would run 1,179 miles (1,897 kilometers) from the Canadian tar sands to U.S. Gulf coast refineries. It has been at the center of a struggle since Calgary-based TransCanada proposed it in 2008. The most recent delay was caused by a lawsuit filed in Nebraska over its proposed route.

At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest said the measure is something "the president doesn't support because the president believes that this is something that should be determined through the State Department and the regular process that is in place to evaluate projects like this." □



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. pauses during a news conference Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. The Democratic-controlled Senate rejected legislation Tuesday aimed at forcing completion of a Canada-to Texas oil pipeline, a massive project at the center of a fierce environmental dispute.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

sive project at the center of a fierce environmental dispute.

Republicans, fresh from sweeping midterm election victories, vowed resurrect the controversial issue next year, when they will control both chambers of the new Congress that takes office in January.

The Keystone XL pipeline has divided Democrats, with President Barack Obama opposing the measure and signaling Tuesday

ingly last week.

The project would move oil from Canada into the United States and eventually to the Gulf Coast. Supporters say it would create jobs and ease American dependence on Middle East oil. A government environmental impact statement also predicts that a pipeline would result in less damage to the climate than moving the same oil by rail.

Critics argue that the drilling itself is environmentally

Canada, which needs infrastructure in place to export its growing oil sands production.

The languishing legislation suddenly received new life this month as both parties hoped to boost their prospects in a runoff election in oil rich-Louisiana state for the last unresolved Senate seat from the Nov. 4 midterm elections.

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, facing an uphill battle to keep her seat

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Mike Valentine and his girlfriend Jill Kless walk home after shopping at Tops as snow falls in Boston, N.Y., Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Parts of New York measured the season's first big snowfall in feet, rather than inches, on Tuesday as 3 feet of lake-effect snow blanketed the Buffalo area and forced the closure of a 132-mile stretch of the state Thruway.

(AP Photo/The Buffalo News, Harry Scull Jr.)

Early Winter

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — A huge lake-effect snow storm paralyzed the up-state city of Buffalo Tuesday, forcing state police on snowmobiles to deliver blankets to stranded motorists on the main highway

across New York state on a wintry day when temperatures fell to freezing or below in all 50 states. In a region accustomed to highway-choking snowstorms, this one is being called one of the worst in memory. Snow blown by strong winds forced the closing of a 132-mile (212-kilometer) stretch of the New York State Thruway.

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said about 140 vehicles were stuck. Troopers used snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles to deliver supplies, state police Capt. Ed Kennedy said. Poloncarz was expecting the remaining motorists to be evacuated by nightfall because of plunging temperatures. Meteorologists say temper-

atures in all 50 states fell to freezing or below on Tuesday. They say the low temperatures were more reminiscent of January than November. In New Hampshire and elsewhere, icy roads led to accidents. Lake-effect storms in Michigan produced gale-force winds and as much as 18 inches of snow, and canceled several flights. The Southeast wasn't spared. Schools closed in the North Carolina mountains amid blustery winds and ice-coated roads. In Atlanta, tourists Morten and Annette Larsen from Copenhagen were caught off-guard by the sub-freezing weather as they took photos of a monument to the 1996 summer Olympics at Centennial Olympic Park. "It's as cold here as it is in Denmark right now. We didn't expect that," Larsen

said, waving a hand over his denim jacket, buttoned tightly over a hooded sweatshirt. In Buffalo, Brian Krzeminski watched the snow pile up outside the south Buffalo convenience store where he worked overnight and served free coffee to the motorists and pedestrians who came in off the city streets to get out of the blinding snow. "There are people that came out to get a few things. We had some people who came in just to get a 30-pack of beer, which is kind of odd," he said. "I'm constantly seeing cars get stuck." The National Weather Service warned that the snow, generated by cold air blowing over the warmer Great Lakes, would continue through Wednesday and could eventually total 6 feet in places. □

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Safety agency to push for national air bag recall

TOM KRISHER
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — The federal government is demanding that the auto industry recall millions of additional cars equipped with faulty air bags that can injure — and even kill — a driver.

The action Tuesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers driver's side air bags equipped with inflators made by Takata Corp. of Japan. The inflators can erupt and send metal fragments into the passenger compartment.

Previously, cars with the inflators had been recalled only in regions with high humidity such as Gulf Coast states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Takata has said that prolonged exposure to moisture can cause the air bag propellant to burn faster than designed, causing the problem.

Up until now, about 8 million cars in the U.S. with Takata inflators have been recalled for problems with either the driver or passenger side air bag, or both. Safety regulators say Tuesday's action is based on incidents involving a death in California and an injury in North Carolina where the air bags were implicated. Both states are outside of the area covered by the earlier recalls.

"One can be an anomaly. Two becomes a trend, and we feel we need to act," said NHTSA Deputy Administrator David Friedman.

Lawmakers have pressured the government to expand the recall to all 50 states as reports of deaths and injuries emerged. While they'll partly get their wish, the expanded recall won't cover passenger air bags, at least not yet.

Also, car owners may run into a problem: a limited number of replacement parts. Takata is struggling to make enough replacement air bag inflators to handle the smaller regional recalls and likely will have trouble supplying demand for a nationwide recall. The company has promised to add two production lines by the start of next year to

make more inflators, Friedman said on a conference call following the government's recall statement.

Friedman said that if Takata and the automakers don't agree to the recall quickly, the safety agency will use its legal powers to make sure the inflators are recalled. He also said Takata resisted moving to a nationwide recall Monday evening.

Takata didn't respond to requests for comment from the AP.

On Thursday, lawmakers will hold a hearing to question Friedman, as well as representatives from Takata and the automakers, about their response to the air bag problem. And next week, millions of drivers across the U.S. will hop in their cars to travel for the busy Thanksgiving weekend.

The government's demand for the national recall covers vehicles made by Ford, Honda, Chrysler, Mazda and BMW, generally from the 2008 model year and earlier. The owner of a 2007 Ford Mustang recently complained to the government about suffering a leg injury when an air bag malfunctioned in North Carolina.

Friedman said NHTSA is asking automakers for a complete list of vehicles with Takata inflators that are similar to the 2007 Mustang, and that information will be shared with the public when available. He did not know an exact number of vehicles involved.

Ford, Chrysler and Honda said Tuesday that they're working with NHTSA, but they wouldn't say if they will expand their recalls. BMW said its recalls of Takata air bags already are national. A message was left for Mazda officials.

On Monday, The Associated Press reported that Honda was quietly fixing air bags across the nation if customers were concerned about their safety. So far, Honda has formally issued recalls in 13 states and territories.

For now, NHTSA isn't demanding a national recall of passenger side air bags.



This undated photo provided by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows a crash test of a 2002 Honda CR-V, one of the models subject to a recall to repair faulty air bags. The federal government is demanding that the auto industry recall millions of additional cars equipped with faulty air bags that can injure — and even kill — a driver.

(AP Photo/Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

The agency says it has been pushing the auto industry to do tests to make sure regional recalls cover all defective air bags.

Friedman said that, so far, there have been no reports of passenger air bags rupturing outside the high-humidity areas. □

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Mayday:

Super PAC to fight super PACs, stumbles in first outing

DEREK WILLIS

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Lawrence Lessig grandly created his Mayday super PAC about six months ago to fight big money in political campaigns.

It didn't go so well. Most of the politicians it backed lost their races. The two it supported who won, Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., and Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., most likely would have been elected without the support. Most of the losing contests weren't particularly close, although some races were made a bit more competitive thanks to Mayday's intervention.

But Lessig isn't giving up the crusade, however quixotic those results might make his efforts seem. His plan is to deliver money sooner.

"We need to engage in more primaries," he recently told his supporters. But figuring out how to appeal to 2016 Republican primary voters on the issue

of campaign finance reform could be as difficult as winning elections this year.

In an email to supporters on Nov. 7 and in a longer

memo on the lesson of the elections, Lessig remained convinced of Mayday's mission: "A significant chunk of actual voters rank our issue as the most

important. These voters are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. And in the right context, we believe the data show that they can be rallied to the

cause."

The right context for Lessig are primaries that won't call for voters to cross party lines for the issue of campaign finance reform. "The data supports the idea that we could move partisan voters toward our issue in safe seats more easily than contested seats," he said.

Concentrating on safe seats suggests the model for Mayday is the Club for Growth. The conservative free-market advocacy group developed a knack for financing primary challengers to Republicans. But what it also has done is score votes so that incumbents will know which of their decisions could invite a well-financed challenge. It typically (but not always) campaigns in seats safer for Republicans, although it also spends money in some competitive general-election campaigns.

Here's the problem Lessig's plan of playing in primaries presents: Changing

Democrats in safe districts won't be enough. Since Democrats are the primary backers of restrictions on unlimited contributions to super PACs and they are the minority party in Congress, Mayday will need to defeat Republicans to build a congressional majority for legislation. But Republican primary voters, like Democratic primary voters, are increasingly consistent in their ideological views, making selling campaign finance reform to them harder. □



Lawrence Lessig, founder of the Mayday super PAC, on the Harvard Law School campus in Cambridge, Mass. Despite the fact that most of the politicians Mayday backed lost their race, Lessig isn't giving up his crusade to fight big money in political campaigns.

(Charlie Mahoney/The New York Times)

Some Republicans oppose NSA records measure

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of President Barack Obama's proposal to end bulk collection of American phone records by the National Security Agency was in doubt Tuesday as key Republican senators began lining up against it. The White House-backed legislation, known as the USA Freedom Act, faced a cloture vote in the Senate, meaning that 60 votes would be required in the

100-member chamber to allow final consideration. The bill would end the NSA's collection of domestic calling records, instead requiring the agency to obtain a court order each time it wants to analyze the records in terrorism cases, and obtain the records from the telephone companies.

In many cases the companies store the records for 18 months.

The revelation that the spying agency had been

collecting and storing domestic phone records since shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was among the most significant by Edward Snowden, a former agency network administrator who turned over secret NSA documents to journalists.

The NSA says it queries the records about 300 times a year, using known terrorist phone numbers, to determine whether any plots are active inside the United States.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, said he would oppose the USA Freedom Act because it would "hinder the ability of intelligence community analysts to query a database to determine links between potential terrorists."

He urged colleagues to oppose the measure. McConnell pointed out that the bill includes no requirement that the telephone companies continue to hold the data. □



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S. MAYEROWITZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Private ski lessons are so passe. The latest on-mountain perk for those with seemingly unlimited funds is spending the day with an Olympian.

The chance to plow through powder — and maybe drinks — with a gold medalist is just one of the ways resorts this season are trying to capitalize on rich travelers looking for unique experiences and some bragging rights.

One Colorado resort even offers a \$50,000 package that includes helicopter transfers from the local airport. Fear not, for those of us not named Astor, Rockefeller or Vanderbilt, there are other options as the industry tries to win over, and retain, skiers outside its loyal base. There are free lift tickets for beginners — or those who recently flew into town — midweek specials and yes, a chance to spend time with former Olympians, although you probably won't have them to yourself. The epicenter of opulence this season is Colorado's Beaver Creek Resort, which is hosting the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in February. In celebration of the giant ski competition, the resort is pulling out all the stops. At the base of the mountain, the Park Hyatt has created a "Ski with a Legend" experience for guests with gold and silver medalists Phil and Steve Mahre. For \$2,500 per brother, a group of up to six can spend a day skiing with the twins, including sampling the ski champ lifestyle over a meal and cocktails.

For those with deeper pockets, Beaver Creek is offering

a \$50,000 white-glove winter package for four that includes season passes to 22 mountains owned or partnered with Vail Resorts, first-class airfare from within the U.S., a private helicopter transfer from the airport to the resort, five nights at the private on-mountain, Trappers Cabin — it comes with a concierge and chef — ski equipment and private lessons. If that weren't enough, one morning the group gets a chance to ski the mountain before anybody else.

At Park City, Utah, a "fresh powder Sherpa" wakes guests early with a mini-massage and warm breakfast so they can ski the freshest snow for \$884.

At Utah's St. Regis Deer Valley, guests can get the chance to ski with a roster of Olympians and U.S. Ski Team members including Kris "Fuzz" Feddersen, Kaylin Richardson, K.C. Oakley, Jillian Vogtli and Mac Bohannon. A half-day excursion for up to six people starts at \$2,250. A full day begins at \$3,250.

"Our guests are generally very sophisticated, frequent world travelers who expect to be wowed. Essentially, they can go anywhere in the world that they please," says Edward Shapard, the hotel's general manager. The competition is pretty stiff. For instance, skiers on a \$65,000 private jet excursion with stops at Four Seasons hotels in Vail and Whistler can ski with 1994 Olympic gold and silver medalist Tommy Moe when they get to the Four Seasons in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. "Put the intimidation factor aside; skiing with an Olympian has its perks, lift lines naturally



This image shows Trappers Cabin at Beaver Creek near Avon, Colo. Five nights at the cabin, with a concierge and chef, is part of a \$50,000 white-glove package for four offered by the resort that includes season passes to 22 mountains owned by or partnered with Vail Resorts, first-class airfare from within the U.S., a private helicopter from the airport to the resort, and ski equipment and lessons.

(AP Photo/Beaver Creek)

open up and heads turn," says Cory Carlson, director of sales for the hotel. However, you don't need deep pockets to ski with the champs. You won't get

private time, but at Colorado's Steamboat Springs, you can get free pointers from 1964 Olympic silver medalist and world champion Billy Kidd and then

join him for a run down Heavenly Daze. Check the sign at the top of the gondola to see if Kidd is skiing that day and join him at 1 p.m. □

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American Living:

Health Law Turns Obama and Insurers Into Allies

ROBERT PEAR

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - With the health insurance marketplace now open for a second year, President Barack Obama will be depending

The insurers in turn have provided crucial support to Obama in court battles over the health care law, including a case now before the Supreme Court challenging the federal

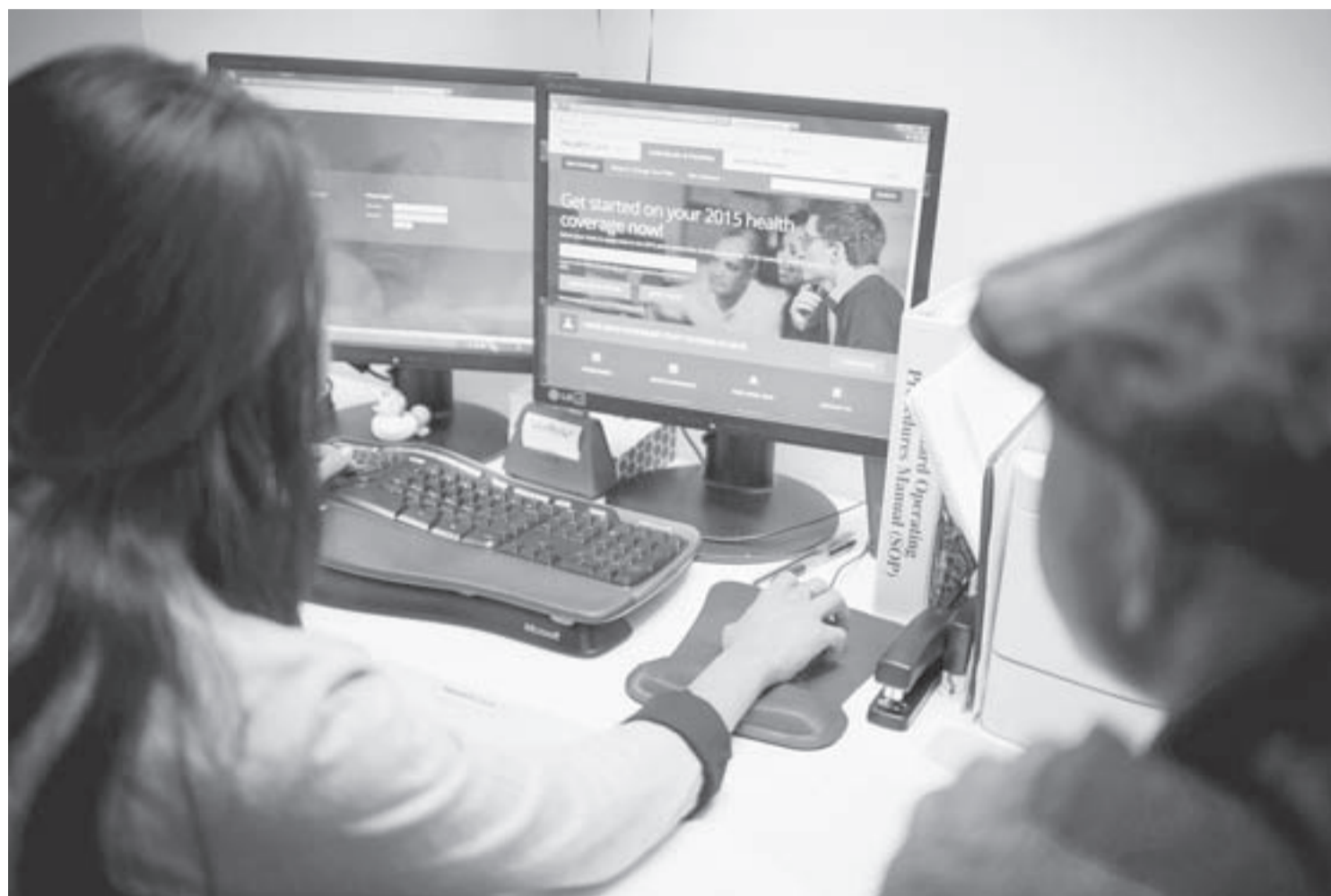
at government programs as growth markets," said Michael J. Tuffin, former executive vice president of America's Health Insurance Plans, the main lobby for the industry. "There will

dex has increased about 70 percent.

Whatever Republicans do, over the next three months - the enrollment period - consumers will hear the same messages from insur-

health plan - the "public option" that liberal Democrats had favored. But friction between insurers and the Obama administration continued into 2013 as the industry bristled at stringent rules imposed on carriers in the name of consumer protection. A turning point in the relationship came last fall, after the chaotic debut of HealthCare.gov, when insurers waived enrollment deadlines and helped the White House fix the dysfunctional website. Now insurers say government business is growing much faster than the market for commercial employer-sponsored coverage. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 170 million people will have coverage through Medicare, Medicaid and the insurance exchanges by 2023, an increase of about 50 percent from 2013. By contrast, the number of people with employer-based coverage is expected to rise just 2 percent, to 159 million.

In addition, the Affordable Care Act has engendered growth in the role of private insurers in Medicaid. The law expanded eligibility for Medicaid, and most of the new beneficiaries receive care from private health plans under contracts awarded by state Medicaid agencies. As a result, Medicaid enrollment is up more than eight million, or 15 percent, in the last year. In a survey of 10 insurance companies, Joshua R. Raskin, an analyst at Barclays, reported that their revenues from the Medicare Advantage program were up about 10 percent this year. UnitedHealth Group's Medicaid enrollment surged by nearly 1 million people, or 24 percent, in the last year, said Stephen J. Hemsley, the chief executive. At another large insurer, WellPoint, the expansion of Medicaid "is proving highly profitable," Christine Arnold, a managing director of Cowen and Company, wrote in a recent report. □



Alonzo Lee Moore, 30, right, who has never had health insurance before, is assisted by Clara Rodriguez in signing up for exchanges through the Affordable Care Act marketplace website at Legacy Community Health Services in Houston, Nov. 15, 2014. With the health insurance marketplace now open for a second year, President Barack Obama will be depending more than ever on the insurance companies that five years ago he accused of padding profits and canceling coverage for the sick.

(Michael Stravato/The New York Times)

more than ever on the insurance companies that five years ago he accused of padding profits and canceling coverage for the sick. Those same insurers have long viewed government as an unreliable business partner that imposed taxes, fees and countless regulations and had the power to cut payment rates and cap profit margins. But since the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010, the relationship between the Obama administration and insurers has evolved into a powerful, mutually beneficial partnership that has been a boon to the nation's largest private health plans and led to a profitable surge in their Medicaid enrollment.

subsidies paid to insurance companies on behalf of low- and moderate-income consumers. Last fall, a unit of one of the nation's largest insurers, UnitedHealth Group, helped the administration repair the HealthCare.gov website after it crashed in the opening days of enrollment. "Insurers and the government have developed a symbiotic relationship, nurtured by tens of billions of dollars that flow from the federal Treasury to insurers each year," said Michael F. Cannon, director of health policy studies at the libertarian Cato Institute. The relationship is expected only to deepen as the two sides grow more intertwined. "These companies all look

be nearly \$2 trillion of subsidized coverage through insurance exchanges and Medicaid over the next 10 years. These are pragmatic companies. They will follow the customer." So much money is at stake that insurers may soon be on a collision course with the Republican majority in the new Congress. Insurers, often aligned with Republicans in the past, have built their business plans around the 2010 law and will strenuously resist Republican efforts to dismantle it. Since Obama signed the law in March 2010, share prices for four of the major insurance companies - Aetna, Cigna, Humana and UnitedHealth - have more than doubled, while the Standard & Poor's 500-stock in-

ance companies and the government urging them to sign up for health plans sold on the exchanges. Federal law requires most Americans to have coverage, insurers provide it, and the government subsidizes it. "We are in this together," Kevin J. Counihan, the chief executive of the federal insurance marketplace, told insurers at a recent conference in Washington. "You have been our partners," and for that, he said, "we are very grateful." Despite Obama's denunciations of private insurers in 2009, it became inevitable that they would have a central role in expanding coverage under the Affordable Care Act later that year when Congress ruled out a government-run



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German foreign minister tries to save peace plan

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Germany's foreign minister, on a shuttle mission between the Ukrainian and Russian capitals, called Tuesday for quickly drawing a division line between the government troops and pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine to save a floundering peace deal.

Even though the cease-fire agreement signed in the Belarusian capital Minsk in September has been repeatedly violated it offers the best chance possible to end months of fighting that has killed more than 4,000 people, Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after talks in Moscow.

"It would be a huge loss to reject that document," Steinmeier said.

He made a similar point in Kiev earlier in the day, saying that "Minsk remains a reference point, and that's why I call for us to keep working on the implementation of the Minsk protocol."

Steinmeier argued that it's necessary to "give a new impulse" to the Minsk agreement. He said that the parties are close to reaching an agreement on the line of division, adding that once it's done the warring sides could proceed with the next step under the Minsk deal and start pulling heavy artillery back from the frontline.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke in support of quickly drawing the line of division.

The Minsk protocol failed to produce a clear line of division and fighting has continued to rage around the main rebel-held city of Donetsk and other strategic areas as both warring sides have sought to extend their gains.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, smiles looking at German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier as they leave a news conference in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who is shuttling between Kiev and Moscow on Tuesday, urged the Ukrainian government and pro-Russian separatists to respect their cease-fire agreement, which has helped to halt ground combat but failed to stop daily artillery exchanges.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of violating the deal by continuing to back the rebels with troops and weapons and supporting regional elections held

by the insurgents. Moscow denies those allegations.

"We call on Russia to pull back its forces from eastern Ukraine and to respect the Minsk agreements," NATO

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday.

Speaking in London, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said "Russia has to be consistently remind-

ed of its obligations under the Minsk protocol," adding that the EU "will continue to apply pressure to Russia until it complies with those obligations." □

Syria government airstrikes kill at least 14

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian aircraft dropped crude explosives on a neighborhood in the northern Aleppo province on Tuesday, killing at least 14 people, including children, and wounded another 20, activists said.

The Qabr al-Ingilzi neighborhood was struck by several so-called barrel bombs, according to the Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, and the Britain-based Syrian Obser-

vatory for Human Rights, which relies on activists on the ground in the war-torn country. Syrian aircraft have dropped hundreds of barrel bombs on rebel-held neighborhoods over the course of the civil war, killing thousands of civilians and causing widespread destruction. The crude tactic -- which often involves hurling explosives-filled canisters from helicopters -- has been widely criticized by human rights groups because the bombs cannot

be precisely targeted. The Observatory said at least 14 people were killed, including five children and three women, and that the death toll was likely to rise because more people were buried under the rubble. It said the bombs struck an ambulance and several minibuses.

"Bashar you dog! You oppressor! May this happen to your children!" a man said in a video purporting to show the aftermath of the attack, referring to Presi-

dent Bashar Assad. "These are children, not terrorists!" he said. The video, which showed what appeared to be the bodies of two slain children, appeared genuine and corresponded with The Associated Press' reporting. Syria's war, now well into its fourth year, began as an uprising against the Assad family's four-decade rule. It has since become a complicated civil war, and activists estimate some 200,000 people have been killed. □

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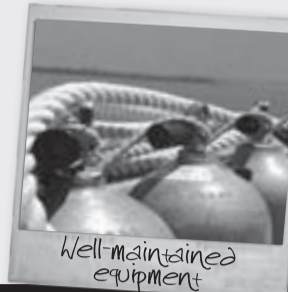
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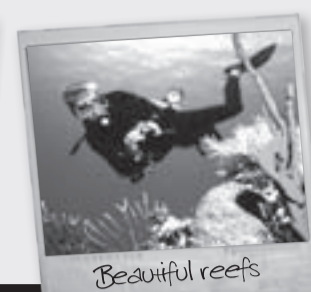
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Japan:

PM Shinzo Abe calls for early elections

MARTIN FACKLER

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IWAKUNI, Japan - With his

once-vaunted plan for reviving Japan's economy now faltering, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared Tuesday that he would dissolve parliament and hold national elections next month, saying he wants a new mandate from voters. In a broadcast on live national television, Abe explained the move by saying he wanted to ask voters to approve his decision to postpone a scheduled increase in the national sales tax, which he warned could further hurt growth. But he also framed it as a broader referendum on his economic measures, known as Abenomics.

"There are divided opinions about the economic policies that we are pursuing. There is also resistance," Abe said. "To continue advancing that growth strategy with the support of the people, we need to listen to the voice of people."

Political analysts said the decision to call an election was an admission by Abe that his widely watched economic program, intended to pull Japan out of its two-decade slump, was losing steam. That program, a mix of increased government spending and an aggressive pumping of cash into the economy by the central bank, lifted the stock market and won praise as a potential model for other developed economies. In Washington last year, Abe proudly proclaimed that Japan was back on solid footing.

Now it appears he may have spoken too soon. Economists say growth in the Japanese economy, the world's third-largest,

after the United States and China, has faltered because of a failure to follow up with painful changes and because of the ill-timed increase in the national sales tax. The final blow came Monday, when official figures showed that

ing his first term as prime minister. Seven years ago, those scandals eventually toppled his government. Analysts said a prolonged economic slowdown could spell the end of the so-called Abe phenomenon, in which the prime minister

nomics was fizzling could hamper, or even block, Abe's attempts to implement less popular parts of his agenda, such as expanding the role of Japan's military, or restarting its shuttered nuclear industry. Perhaps most important,



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a press conference at his official residence in Tokyo, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Abe called a snap election for December and put off a sales tax hike planned for next year until 2017, vowing to step down if his strategy falls flat.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Japan had fallen into recession in the third quarter. Those figures, and growing criticism from opposition parties saying that his policies were failing, prompted him to call an election, Abe said. "There is criticism that Abenomics is a failure," Abe said. "So what should we do? Unfortunately, I have yet to hear one concrete idea." Calling elections could also be a bid to renew support for a government that has suffered from a growing number of financing and other scandals. While he has been able to overcome major political damage so far, the problems are similar to those that Abe faced dur-

ing his first term as prime minister. Seven years ago, those scandals eventually toppled his government. Analysts said a prolonged economic slowdown could spell the end of the so-called Abe phenomenon, in which the prime minister enjoyed high approval ratings and appeared destined to stay in office for several years, a rarity in a nation with a long series of leaders with short political life spans. They said the basis of his popularity was his success in lifting some of Japan's economic gloom and in restoring confidence. The size of the economy's decline was a big shock to Abe and the Liberal Democratic Party," said Katsuyuki Yakushiji, a professor of politics at Toyo University in Tokyo. "It makes Abenomics look like a failure. Abe suddenly looks desperate to stay in power." Analysts also said the recent signs that Abe-

Abe is seeking a mandate on an issue close to voters' pocketbooks: whether to postpone a second scheduled increase of the national sales tax, which by law is to take place next year. On Tuesday, Abe said he wanted to submit the issue to voters because it would amount to a reversal of a position by his Liberal Democratic Party, which supported the tax increase bill when it passed two years ago. Such a delay would undoubtedly prove popular among voters, especially after the first increase of the sales tax this year was widely blamed for contributing to the current recession.

Colombian rebels now acknowledge general's capture

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's largest rebel group left open the possibility of releasing a captured army general so as not to derail peace talks but insisted that only a bilateral ceasefire, something the government has long rejected, can prevent similar setbacks from re-occurring. Peace negotiators for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia broke their silence Tuesday and confirmed that it is holding Gen.

In a statement read on behalf of the FARC's Ivan Rios block, rebel peace negotiators in Cuba referred to Alzate as a Pentagon-trained counterinsurgent officer with "huge outstanding debts" to Colombia's popular justice. Nonetheless, guerrilla commander Jorge Torres said he hopes a "quick and sensible" solution is found so peace talks put on hold by President Juan Manuel Santos can resume.

"What needs to be suspended is the war, not the peace process," Torres, a member of the FARC's ruling secretariat better known by his alias Pablo Catatumbo, told journalists in Havana.

The general's capture, the first of its kind in 50 years of fighting, has plunged the two-year-old peace talks into an unprecedented crisis.

Even before Santos suspended talks, frustration with the slow progress and the guerrillas' refusal to wind down attacks had been building, especially among his conservative opponents and members of the military.

Ex-Army sergeant among 4 killed in Puerto Rico

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — Gunmen killed a retired Army sergeant and three members of his family, Puerto Rico police said Tuesday. A 13-year-old son survived despite being stabbed and thrown off a bridge.

At least three suspects were involved in the fatal shooting of 67-year-old Miguel Ortiz Diaz, his wife, and his

mother-in-law at the family home in the U.S. territory's upscale city of Guaynabo just southwest of the capital of San Juan, police officer Maritza Ramos said.

The suspects took two teenage sons of the couple to the neighboring city of Bayamon, where a 15-year-old son was fatally shot. A 13-year-old son survived after being stabbed and thrown over a bridge when the gun one of the attack-

ers was using ran out of bullets, Police Superintendent Jose Caldero said.

One person has been detained in the attacks, and two more are being sought. No charges have been filed. He said police do not have a motive yet but are investigating whether Ortiz was killed by people who were renting a house he owned and were facing eviction because they had fallen behind on the rent.

Ortiz had been a professor for nearly 20 years at Puerto Rico's American Military Academy, where officials held an impromptu vigil Tuesday morning.

"He was an excellent professor and colleague," Director Juan Carlos Conuegra told reporters. "He was always smiling and in a good mood. He was very cooperative. It's a strong blow to this institution."

Ortiz's two sons also attend-

ed the academy and were enrolled in ninth and eighth grade.

Police had initially said that Ortiz was a retired colonel, but Maj. Carlos Cuebas, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Reserve, said that a database identified Ortiz as a sergeant first class who had retired a while back.

"He was a good person who continued to serve the community," Cuebas said. □

Bob Marley heirs join US firm to launch pot brand

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A U.S. private equity firm announced Tuesday it has joined the family of late reggae star Bob Marley in hopes of building what it touts as the "world's first global cannabis brand."

Seattle-based Privateer Holdings announced Tuesday it has reached a licensing deal with Marley's heirs to offer marijuana strains, including ones famed in Jamaica, where regulations permit by late 2015. It also plans to sell weed-infused lotions, creams and various accessories.

"My dad would be so happy to see people understanding the healing power of the herb," Miami-based Cedella Marley said in a company statement. She's the eldest daughter of the music legend who died of cancer in 1981 and is Jamaica's most iconic figure.

Over the years, his estate has authorized deals for a wide range of merchan-



A mural depicting reggae music icon Bob Marley decorates a wall in the yard of Marley's Kingston home in Jamaica. A U.S. private equity firm announced Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 it has joined the family of late reggae star Bob Marley in hopes of building what it touts as the "world's first global cannabis brand."

(AP Photo/ David McFadden)

dise. But the move to create "Marley Natural" has stirred grousing in Jamaica among those who share his Rastafarian faith, a spiritual movement that considers the drug divine.

Maxine Stowe of the Rastafari Millennium Council asserts that Marley was "the least of the Wailers around the issue of ganja legalization" and worries his estate's efforts to launch a

cannabis brand will negatively impact Jamaican efforts to financially benefit from a legalization movement gaining traction across the globe.

The Wailers were founded

by Marley, Bunny Wailer and Peter Tosh. All three famously espoused smoking the "holy herb," but Stowe argues Wailer and the late Tosh were more strident activists.

"The government has to stand up now for Rastafari and the Wailers' rights in their intellectual property!" Stowe wrote in a Tuesday email.

Some Rastas are also irked that Marley Natural will be based in New York.

But while pot remains prohibited here, Jamaica has been rethinking its position. The government hopes to amend drug laws to pave the way for a regulated medical marijuana and research sector. Officials say this could be achieved next year.

Delano Seiveright, director of the island's Ganja Law Reform Coalition, said there are hopes that the Marley family's plans will spur Jamaica to "develop a legal and regulated cannabis industry much sooner rather than later." □

Anti-government protest in Haiti turns violent

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— An anti-government protest that snaked through sections of Haiti's capital on Tuesday turned violent as three people were apparently shot in a volatile neighborhood.

The march began peacefully when a crowd grew to a few thousand people in slums that are opposition strongholds. But as dem-

onstrators walked by an intersection in Delmas 32, the critics of President Michel Martelly's administration and pro-government residents began shouting and throwing rocks at each other.

As the melee quickly escalated, Associated Press journalists witnessed three people apparently getting hit by bullets. One was hit in the neck and appeared gravely wounded. The two

others sustained wounds to limbs.

As a panic ensued in the densely-packed area of cinderblock houses, officers with the Haitian National Police fired tear gas and most demonstrators dispersed. Police spokesman Frantz Lerebours and other authorities made no immediate comment about the violence or any arrests.

Even after the violence, nearly 1,000 protesters con-

tinued their Tuesday march demanding Martelly's resignation and a chance to vote in long-delayed legislative and municipal elections, among other things. The vote has been postponed due to an ongoing stalemate over an electoral law between the government and six opposition senators.

Late Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe tweeted that the six

senators need to "unlock the democratic process" and the "opposition must break with their outdated chaotic policies."

The opposition protest took place on a public holiday to mark the 211th anniversary of an 1803 battle when an indigenous army defeated French colonial forces after 11 years of bloody struggle for emancipation from centuries of slavery. □

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Blighted harvest drives olive oil price pressures

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

BEJA, Portugal (AP) — If your favorite bottle of Mediterranean olive oil starts costing more, blame unseasonable European weather — and tiny insects. High spring temperatures, a cool summer and abundant rain are taking a big bite out of the olive harvest in some key regions of Italy, Spain, France and Portugal. Those conditions have also helped the proliferation of the olive fly and olive moth, which are calamitous blights.

The shortfall could translate into higher shelf prices for some olive oils and is dealing another blow to southern Europe's bruised economies as they limp out of a protracted financial crisis.

"The law of supply and demand is a basic law of the market," said Joaquim Freire de Andrade, president of growers' association Olivum in Portugal's southern Alentejo region, the country's olive heartland. "It's a tough year."

Olive oil is big business in southern European Union countries. They are the source of more than 70 percent of the world's olive oil, bringing export revenue of almost 1.8 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) last year. The United States imported just over \$800 million of that. For some European growers, this year's harvest is a bust.

In Spain, the world's biggest producer, the young farmers' association Asaja says 2014 is "another disaster" after a calamitous harvest two years ago. Spain's output is forecast to plunge by more than 50 percent, with a drop of at least 60 percent in the southern Andalusia region. Several factors have combined to hurt Spain. Trees

are exhausted after last year's bumper harvest. Also, unusually high spring temperatures choked flowering. On top of that, some producers are battling swarms of olive flies and moths.



Workers fill up a truck with harvested olives to be transferred to an oil mill, in a farm near Serpa, in the Portuguese region of the Alentejo. High spring temperatures, a cool summer and abundant rain are taking a big bite out of the olive harvest in some key regions of Italy, Spain, France and Portugal.

Consumers are already paying 1 euro a liter more for their olive oil, Asaja president Luis Carlos Valero says, though he doesn't anticipate a hefty price jump. For celebrated Italian olive oil producers, "this is the worst year in memory," said Pietro Sandali, head of the Italian olive growers' consortium, Unaprol. The group expects a 35 percent drop in national production this year. After heavy spring and summer rain, some growers didn't bother to harvest their meager crop. For some who did, the volume is low and the quality is poor.

"This crop is not to be remembered. This is a crop

to be forgotten in every aspect," said Augusto Spagnoli, an organic olive grower from Nerola, about 50 kilometers from Rome, as he stood amid his 10,000 trees, some of which are more than 1,600 years old.

been a problem for olive oil producers, but the scale this year has astonished farmers.

"I'd never seen this and the older folks said they'd never seen such a proliferation of flies," said producer

The bulk price for extra virgin oil from the benchmark Bari region has soared to 6 euros a kilogram — up from 2.7 euros this time last year. French growers say they face their most daunting crisis since a big freeze in 1956 decimated olive groves.

This year's harvest was initially expected to fetch some 5,000 metric tons of olive oil but it may reach only 1,500 metric tons, according to the Inter-professional French Olives Association.

The big culprit there is a fly the size of a small ant. The fly pricks olives and places larvae inside, and the maggots tunnel through the fruit. The flies have long

Laurent Belorgey, part of a third generation of olive growers at the 19th-century Domaine de la Lieutenante, south of Avignon.

In Beja, 180 kilometers (110 miles) southeast of the Portuguese capital Lisbon, producers deploy satellite technology on their high-tech farms these days but after generations they are still fighting age-old enemies: the olive fly and a fruit fungus that turns olives brown and makes them shrivel like prunes. Both blights have struck hard this year.

Portuguese growers are doing what the French have done: harvesting earlier and faster than usual before any more is lost. □

Shell Nigeria denies lying to Dutch court

CHIKA ODUAH
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Shell Nigeria denies it lied to a Dutch court in The Hague about oil pollution in the Niger Delta.

The multinational company, half owned by Nigeria's government and with significant Dutch shareholding, says sabotage, not negligence, caused spills in 2004 along the Trans-Niger pipeline that destroyed several hectares of mangrove forests and the livelihoods of residents of Goi village.

"We dismiss any suggestion that SPDC has knowingly continued to use a pipeline that is not safe to operate," a spokesperson for the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Shell is preparing for the appeal hearing.

In a press statement released Monday, Friends of the Earth Netherlands alleged that documents revealed this year in a British court show that Shell continued to pump oil through a corroded pipeline despite being warned in 2002 that it had exceeded its lifespan and needed to be replaced.

"Shell has repeatedly surpassed our worst nightmares," said Geert Ritsema of Friends of the Earth Netherlands, in a statement.

The legal action was brought to The Hague in 2012 by the environmental group and four Nigerian farmers to hold Shell Nigeria and Shell Headquarters liable for damages from the 2004 spillage. The leaking oil caught on fire and burned for several days in Goi. □



Acqua Condominium Aruba: The Essence of a Lifestyle

PALM BEACH – Acqua Condominium Aruba, a project spearheaded by Acqua Construction, on 325,278 sq. ft. of prime property land on Palm Beach announced recently that construction has been progressing at a satisfactory pace and that the sales gallery as well as the model-suite within the Sabbia Tower, are ready to welcome tours and inquiries, seven days a week.

The developer has also recently incentivized your purchase with some super deals, so your timing couldn't be better!

The Sabbia Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts

208, 2-bedroom condos, with 2 baths each, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views.

The two condo towers, on the already fully-fenced property, will be complemented by a two-story shopping complex, facing the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, with commercial space for trendy restaurants and upscale shops.

Making the decision on a purchase, and acting on it fast, was recently made even more imperative, in view of the fact that the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment



to a building moratori-

um for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

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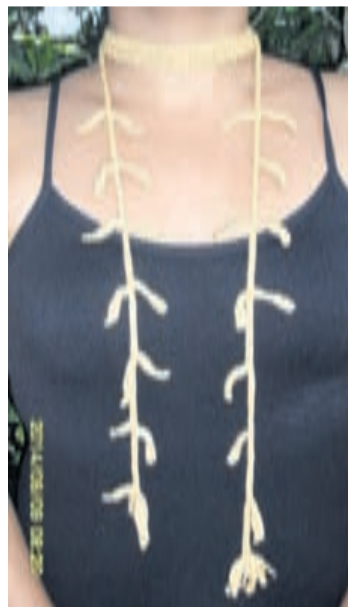
Local Artist Taina Croes-Odor is Caribbean Queen of November



Palm Beach -- Each month Caribbean Queen at Palm Beach Plaza Mall honors one local female artist who lives and creates here. The Caribbean Queen program was launched when the store opened in

late 2011, and has been running successfully ever since. For the month of November 2014, local artist Taina Croes-Odor is the boutique's celebrated Caribbean Queen, showcasing her handmade jewelry

and crochet specialties. Born and raised in Aruba, Taina's mother—a famed local artist nicknamed Lulu, well known during the '70s and early '80s—regularly created a variety of hand-made party favors for weddings, baptisms, and baby showers, all made of different interesting materials, including ceramic, crochet, cardboard, and wire. As a child, Taina was exposed to her mom's crafting, and after school she always



helped with artistic projects, acquiring a cherished hobby along the way.

As a married woman with five children, Taina found it exceedingly difficult to keep up with her hobby, which lay dormant for years. Two years ago, however, she found more leisure time and right away got back into creating and



making jewelry. The toolbox was dusted off, new materials were purchased, and creative juices began to flow. During the day-time, Taina entertains and helps raise her six adorable grandchildren, while nights are dedicated to her hobby. She feels very content, she says, and connected to God when she's busy creating. It's a moment for meditation and introspection that results in beautiful crafts and accessories, she explains. Taina's specialty is crocheting. She uses different thread materials, like bamboo viscose, hemp, acrylic, nylon, silk, cotton, and wire, combined with beads she makes from polymer clay, and other assorted ornaments. She makes necklaces, bangles, and barefoot sandals, which her daughter named Foot Elegance. Foot Elegance may be worn on the beach, at a poolside wedding party, or to a barefoot dinner. The nylon and bamboo viscose are skin friendly, and they



can be hand washed and laid flat to dry. Taina says she enjoys her hobby and hopes people who wear her creations get as much joy out of them as she does. Caribbean Queen boutique earmarks a percentage of all sales for its Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World) program. The collected funds are given quarterly to local not-for-profit organizations in an ongoing effort to do good and serve the community. All the foundations served with donations from Caribbean Queen are dedicated to the promotion of art and artisan education on the island.

Enjoy these unique hand-crafted Aruban pieces by Taina Croes-Odor throughout the month of November, and drop in to witness a live demonstration of her craft at the boutique on November 20 in the evening hours. □



Loyal Guests Honored at Paradise Beach Villas



EAGLE BEACH - Recently, the following guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the island of Aruba: Michael and Rita Savignano from New Jersey and Virginia and Thomas Wilcox from Connecticut.



The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 years consecutive.

Marouska Heyliger representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at Paradise Beach Villas.



emony at Paradise Beach Villas.

Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the 'Happy Island,' and because of its great weather and friendly Aruban hospitality. On the picture: All honorees enjoying their ceremony! □

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In this Oct. 8, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson waits inside a courtroom while making his first court appearance in Conroe, Texas. Associated Press

NFL suspends Peterson for at least rest of season

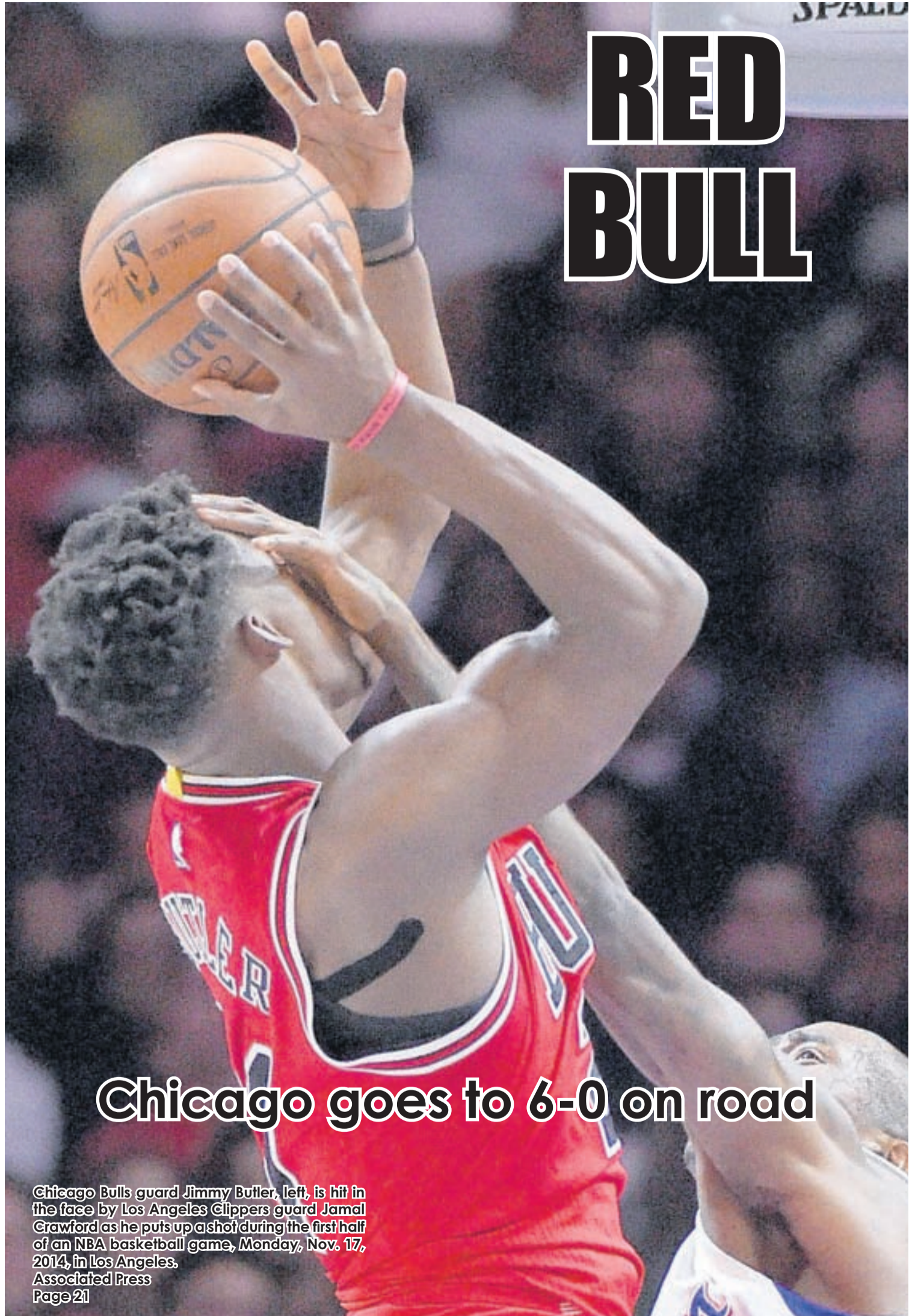
DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Pro Football Writer
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Star running back Adrian Peterson was suspended without pay for at least the rest of the season by the NFL on Tuesday.

The league said it informed the Minnesota Viking in a letter from Commissioner Roger Goodell that he will not be considered for reinstatement before April 15 for violating the NFL personal conduct policy — the first example of the league's crackdown on players involved with domestic violence.

The NFL Players Association quickly announced its plan to appeal, and sharply rebuked the league's alleged inconsistency and unfairness in the process.

The NFL's words were even stronger, with a nearly 1,600-word statement spelling out his path to a return to the field and describing the reasons for the punishment.

Continued on next page



RED BULL

Chicago goes to 6-0 on road

Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler, left, is hit in the face by Los Angeles Clippers guard Jamal Crawford as he puts up a shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, in Los Angeles. Associated Press
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In this Dec. 1, 2013, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, left, tries to break a tackle from Chicago Bears free safety Chris Conte during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Peterson

Continued from page 17

Peterson pleaded no contest on Nov. 4 to misdemeanor reckless assault in Texas for injuries to his 4-year-old son with a branch. He said he intended no harm, only discipline. Peterson was on a special exempt list at the sole discretion of Goodell, essentially paid leave while the case went through the legal system. The NFLPA said Peterson

was told that would count as time served for any suspension levied, citing an unnamed NFL executive. League spokesman Brian McCarthy said by email the stay on the exempt list was taken into account.

"There were aggravating circumstances that led to the discipline announced," McCarthy said.

Peterson's salary for the season was \$11.75 million. He will keep the pay accrued while on the exempt list.

Peterson's agent, Ben Dogra, told The Associated Press he and his client were scheduled for a conference call on Tuesday with the NFLPA to discuss options.

The Vikings issued a brief statement: "We respect the league's decision and will have no further comment at this time."

Goodell announced on Aug. 28 that the league would toughen punishment for players involved with domestic violence. That action stemmed from a torrent of criticism for the initial leniency toward Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice following a caught-on-camera knockout punch of the woman who is now his wife.

The Vikings have six games left this season. The league's enhanced policy calls for a six-game suspension for first offenses of assault, battery or domestic

violence. Aggravating circumstances warrant higher levels of discipline, and Goodell's letter to Peterson spelled that out.

Goodell pointed to the child's age, and the significant physical difference between Peterson and his son.

"Further, the injury inflicted on your son includes the emotional and psychological trauma to a young child who suffers criminal physical abuse at the hands of his father," Goodell wrote. "Second, the repetitive use of a switch in this instance is the functional equivalent of a weapon, particularly in the hands of someone with the strength of an accomplished professional athlete."

Goodell also came down on Peterson for showing "no meaningful remorse" for hurting the boy, and expressed concern that he "may feel free to engage in similar conduct in the future."

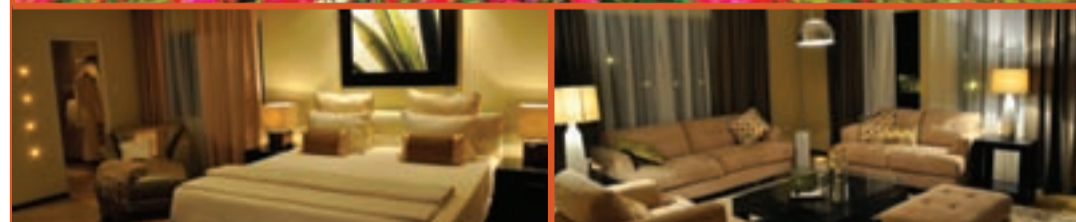
"The decision by the NFL to suspend Adrian Peterson is another example of the credibility gap that exists between the agreements they make and the actions they take."

Since Adrian's legal matter was adjudicated, the NFL has ignored their obligations and attempted to impose a new and arbitrary disciplinary proceeding," the NFLPA said.

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NHL Roundup

Callahan lifts Lightning to win in return to MSG

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Callahan scored two goals in his first game against his former New York Rangers teammates as the surging Tampa Bay Lightning rode another big offensive outburst to a 5-1 victory Monday night.

Callahan netted the second of Tampa Bay's two first-period goals and then closed the scoring with 2:51 left in the game for the Lightning, who lead the NHL with 71 goals in 19 games. Nikita Kucherov also scored in the opening frame, and Steven Stamkos and Alex Killorn had goals in the second after New York closed within a goal. Stamkos also had two assists, as did Tyler Johnson, Ondrej Palat and Valtteri Filppula. Ben Bishop made 15 saves on New York's season-low 16 shots. The Lightning (13-4-2), one point behind Eastern Conference-leading Montreal, are 8-1-1 in their past 10 games.

Tampa Bay improved to 12-0 when Callahan scores since he was acquired from the Rangers in the captain-swap trade that

sent Martin St. Louis to New York on March 5.

St. Louis, the Lightning's career points leader, scored a power-play goal in the second period for the Rangers, 1-3-2 in their past six. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 25 shots.

The Lightning grabbed a two-goal lead in a span of 7:30 in the first period.

Just after Bishop stopped St. Louis on a chance in front, the Lightning got on the board at the other end. Johnson sent a crisp pass that sent Kucherov in alone on Lundqvist. He flipped a shot that hit Lundqvist but found its way between the goalie's pads as he was falling backward into the net at 6:50.

It was Kucherov's seventh of the season — all in the past 12 games — and his 14th point in that span. Johnson has 19 points in 16 games.

Callahan doubled the lead during a power play on the Lightning's fourth shot.

Stamkos deftly worked the puck low from the left circle and found Callahan alone at the right post with a pass for a slam shot that Lundqvist had no chance to stop. Callahan has four

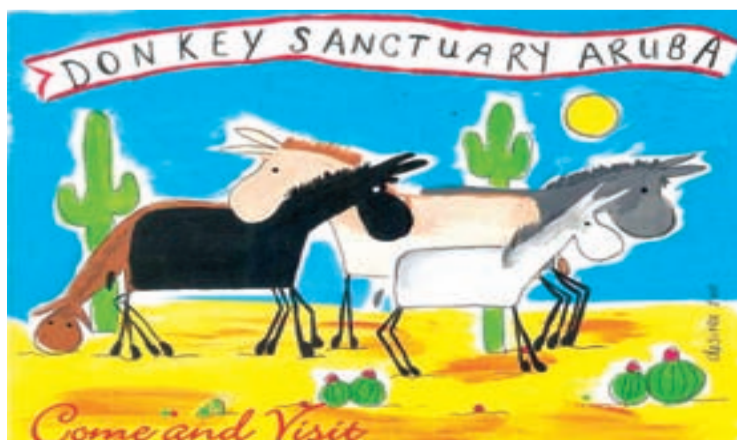
goals and five assists in his past six games.

While there were Rangers jerseys with his name on the back and familiar 'C' on the front, Callahan heard early boos when he touched the puck. Those turned to cheers around 7 minutes in when a video tribute to him and fellow former Rangers Brian Boyle and Anton Stralman, with the message "Thanks for the memories. We salute you," was shown on the scoreboard. The warm reception reverted to boos when Callahan scored.



Tampa Bay Lightning's Nikita Kucherov (86), of Russia, scores on New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30), of Sweden, during the first period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press



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MLB All-Stars beat Japan 3-1 in final game of tour

JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) —

Matt Shoemaker combined with four relievers on a four-hitter to upstage Shohei Otani, and the Major League Baseball All-Stars beat Japan 3-1 on Tuesday in the finale of their five-game series.

Shoemaker, who finished second to Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu in AL Rookie of the Year voting, got the win by allowing two hits in five scoreless innings.

Randy Choate, Tommy Hunter and Mark Melancon finished as the MLB as the All-Stars won the last two games after an 0-3 start.

"You always want to go out there and put up zeroes," Shoemaker said. "They have a lot of good hitters, scrappy guys and power guys, so you want to go out there and execute."



MLB All-Stars Jose Altuve hits a double in the sixth inning against Japan during Game-Five of their exhibition baseball series at Sapporo Dome in Sapporo, northern Japan, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

Associated Press

Otani took the loss, giving up two runs and six hits in four innings with seven strikeouts.

MLB went ahead 2-0 in the third when Lucas Duda doubled, advanced on Alcides Escobar's single and, with Jose Altuve batting, scored on Motohiro Shima's passed ball. Escobar came around on Altuve's groundout.

"I got hit when I tried to get strikes," Otani said. "That's something I regret. I should have been more careful with the leadoff hitters." The 20-year-old right-hander went 11-4 with 179 strikeouts and a 2.61 ERA this season for the Nippon Ham Fighters. Otani also plays in the outfield for the Fighters and hit .274 with 10 home runs and 31 RBIs in 87 games.

"He's only 20, and he has a great arm," Shoemaker said.

"And I hear he also plays the outfield during the regular season, that's a rare talent."

MLB made it 3-0 in sixth when Altuve doubled, Yasiel Puig singled him to third and Eduardo Nunez had an RBI single.

"Our experience over here was very positive," said Boston's John Farrell, the All-Stars' manager. "All five games were competitive. We faced some very good pitching.

Unfortunately, we lost a couple of players to injury, but overall it was a very positive experience for us." Ryosuke Kikuchi tripled off Choate leading off the seventh and scored on Sho Nakata's groundout against Hunter.

Melancon pitched a one-hit ninth for the save. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Lawson, Afflalo lead Nuggets past Cavs 106-97

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ty Lawson scored 24 points and Arron Afflalo added 23 as the struggling Denver Nuggets ended Cleveland's four-game winning streak with a 106-97 victory over the Cavaliers on Monday. Denver took the lead for good early in the third quarter and was up by as many as 14 midway through the fourth. LeBron James, who missed the morning shoot-around because of a cold, led Cleveland with 22 points. The Nuggets limped into the game having lost seven of eight and were coming off Sunday's defeat at New York in which they made one field goal in the second quarter. Denver looked like a different team Monday, placing five players in double figures. Leading 90-84, the Nuggets scored eight straight points and went ahead 98-84 on Lawson's layup with 6:01 to play. Cleveland, which hit its first 11 3-pointers Saturday against Atlanta, failed to reach 100 points for the first time in six games.

Timofey Mozgov had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Denver. Kevin Love, Kyrie Irving and Dion Waiters each scored 20 points for the Cavaliers.

GRIZZLIES 119, ROCKETS 93
MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Mike Conley scored 19 points as Memphis easily defeated Houston in a matchup of the teams with

the NBA's two best records. Whatever showdown was expected from two 9-1 teams and among the best defensive squads in the league never materialized as the Grizzlies took a 16-point lead in the first quarter and extended it in each of the remaining periods, until it reached 36 points in the fourth frame. Seven players finished in double figures for Memphis, which won its fourth straight overall. Courtney Lee had 15 points, and Zach Randolph added 14.

Trevor Ariza led the Rockets with 16 points. Dwight Howard had 15 points and nine rebounds.

James Harden scored only six points, going 1 of 8 from the field. The Rockets, who entered allowing a league-low 89 points per game, had given up that many by the end of the third quarter.

SPURS 100, 76ERS 75

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Matt Bonner had 18 points and San Antonio's Big Three got some rest as the Spurs handed Philadelphia its 10th straight loss to open the season. Tim Duncan had 16 points and nine rebounds, and Kawhi Leonard had five points and 11 rebounds in limited action. Cory Joseph added 14 points for the defending NBA champions, who never trailed.

Duncan played 16 minutes and Tony Parker 18. Both sat out the entire fourth

quarter after playing just 5 minutes in the third.

San Antonio won its 10th straight at home over Philadelphia and seventh overall against the 76ers.

Michael Carter-Williams had 16 points and four assists for the Sixers. Last season's NBA Rookie of the Year was playing in just his third game after missing the entire preseason and the first seven games of the season with a right shoulder injury.

Philadelphia is losing by an average of 15.5 points this season.

MAVERICKS 107, HORNETS 80

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Monta Ellis scored 18 points and Chandler Parsons had 17 as Dallas defeated Charlotte for its fourth straight victory.

Dirk Nowitzki had 13 points to become the fourth player in NBA history to eclipse 27,000 with one franchise, joining a prestigious group that includes current Hornets owner Michael Jordan, Karl Malone and Kobe Bryant. The Mavericks came in leading the NBA in scoring, averaging more than 109 points. Charlotte offered little resistance as Dallas routinely scored on uncontested alley-oops, dunks, layups and 3-pointers.

Tyson Chandler was 7 of 7 from the field for 14 points, and Jameer Nelson had 11 points and eight assists for Dallas.



Dallas Mavericks' Brandon Wright (34) blocks a shot by Charlotte Hornets' Bismack Biyombo (8) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Nov. 17, 2014. The Mavericks won 107-80.

Associated Press

Gerald Henderson had 18 points for Charlotte (4-7). Al Jefferson was limited to six on 3-of-12 shooting.

BULLS 105, CLIPPERS 89

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy Butler led six players in double figures with 22 points as Chicago beat Los Angeles to improve to 6-0 on the road for the first time since 1996-97.

Taj Gibson had 20 points starting in place of the injured Pau Gasol, Mike Dunleavy Jr. added 19 points and Joakim Noah had 11 points and 16 rebounds. The Bulls remained the NBA's only undefeated

road team while opening a season-long, seven-game trip without the injured Derrick Rose.

Jamal Crawford led the Clippers with 24 points off the bench, and Blake Griffin added 19 points and 10 rebounds. In other NBA games it was Dallas 107, Charlotte 80; Denver 106, Cleveland 97; Orlando 107, Detroit 93; Phoenix 118, Boston 114; Miami 95, Brooklyn 83; Memphis 119, Houston 93; San Antonio 100, Philadelphia 75; Portland 102, New Orleans 93; and Chicago 105, L.A. Clippers 89. □



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) runs the ball against the Tennessee Titans in the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn. The Steelers won 27-24.

Associated Press

TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)
— The Pittsburgh Steelers

came back from 11 points down in the fourth quarter to edge the Tennessee Titans 27-24 as Le'Veon Bell

Steelers rally from 11 down, beat Titans 27-24

turned in the best rushing performance in the NFL this season with 204 yards on Monday. Ben Roethlisberger capped the rally with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Brown with 9:01 left. Bell had 33 carries in the best game by a Steelers running back since 2010, and showed he can help Roethlisberger with the balance coach Mike Tomlin has been wanting all season.

"We want to be a group that's capable of stepping in a stadium and throwing

with anybody in the NFL," Tomlin said. "We want to be a group that's capable of stepping into a stadium and running with anybody in the NFL. We are rounding into form in that regard. That's a recipe for real, long-term success."

The Steelers moved into second in the very competitive AFC North, getting the win they so needed to avoid going into their bye on a two-game losing streak. Bell scored the Steelers' first rushing touchdown in eight weeks, and

only Pittsburgh's fourth this season. Roethlisberger had never beaten the Titans at LP Field, missing the Steelers' win here in 2010. With Bell running through and over the Titans, the Steelers took the pressure off Big Ben by holding the ball for 39 minutes, 49 seconds with a 386-312 edge in total yards of offense.

The Titans blew a 24-13 lead in their fourth consecutive loss. They sacked Roethlisberger five times and intercepted a pass in the end zone. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Festival Figure

Already in October the Christmas shows in the stores were set up to entice you to buy all the ornaments to decorate your home and business. Decorations and figures of a fat, red Santa are available, promising to put anyone in the Holiday Spirits. Medically, when I take a look at the store Santa figure, with his large rotund belly and red face that sports a bulbous nose I see many signs of heart attack candidate. Not that Santa Claus could have heart problems, not allowed.

As cute as round Santa seems to be, most people want to enter the Holiday Season looking fit and trim. In the next two months many people, especially women, are going to pay good money to join commercial weight loss programs in hopes of dropping a size or two. Unfortunately, people tend to regain the weight they lost following a program because once it's finished, they return to their normal eating habits. Furthermore, the body is always trying to fend off what it perceives to be starvation, and losing weight triggers hormone changes that make it difficult to keep shedding pounds.

In the last eleven years in our grass-roots clinic we have seen all kinds of lose weight schemes. This year I have listed all the erroneous beliefs that I have heard from our patients.

1. "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days." Any commercial weight loss programs or any other gimmick that pledges massive weight loss quickly is certainly not healthy, and not true. Permanent weight loss requires lifestyle change, not a quick fix. Loosing weight very fast usually means dehydrating your body and loosing muscle.

2. Lose weight by not eating. Without question the worse way to try to loose weight. Starving deprives the body of the nutrients it needs for life and can lead to serious illness. Plus you lose muscle mass, not fat. Even if you do lose pounds, you gain them back almost immediately when you start eating again.

3. Carbohydrates are bad for you. First it was fat, now carbohydrates are the bad guy. Insulin, stimulated by the excess simple carbohydrates in our overabundant consumption of grains, starches and sweets, together with sedentary lifestyles is responsible for all those bulging stomachs, fat thighs and chins. However there are healthy complex carbohydrates, such as vegetables, whole brown rice and quinoa, which provide vital vitamins, and fiber to aid digestion.

4. Fat is bad for

you. Your brain is eighty percent fat; not fat you want to loose. Some fats like trans-fats found in processed foods and sweets are unhealthy, but many called essential fatty acids are good and necessary for your health. Your body is not going to be able to make your hormones without these fats.

5. Drinking Diet sodas help you loose weight. There's not one study that shows diet sodas help you lose weight. Meanwhile while you are drinking your liquid candy you are consuming chemicals that have shown to cause cancer.

6. Salad bars are healthy. Lunch meats with chemical salts, cheeses, oily dressings are not healthy choices. You have to choose foods at a salad bar wisely to loose weight. Meanwhile, "Iceberg" lettuce has absolutely no nutritional value.

7. Don't eat after 6 p.m. Europeans eat at 10 o'clock at night and they're half the size of Americans and Arubans. It is not what time you eat, it's what you eat and staying active for at least three hours after you eat. The worse eating habit here in Aruba after a night of drinking is to eat a late snack at a food truck and then home to bed.

8. Check your weight on a scale daily to check your progress. Checking your weight on a regular basis is an obvious way to gauge your progress and alter your diet accordingly; however, that scale

tells you very little. I encourage patients to keep track of hip, thigh and stomach tummy centimeters and dress sizes that are much more enlightening.

9. To lose weight take a pill or have an operation to have your stomach made smaller. Wow, your insurance company may even pay some of these. You cannot replace healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle choices with a pill or operation. Drugs are not new, they have been tried for many years and both drugs and operations can be dangerous and have horrible side effects. A better choice includes natural dietary supplements which can safely balance nutritional deficiencies, aid in managing unhealthy eating, support restful sleep and increase energy.

10. You have to join the gym. Actually, 30 to 60 minutes per day of moderate physical activity is all it takes to balance healthy food intake. It does not have to be strenuous exercise, just move your body by gardening, walking, swimming, SCUBA diving, flying, dancing or having sex; just get of the couch.

Get The Point! That majority of Americans and Arubans are overweight, and an alarming number are clinically obese. In countries addicted to convenient processed foods this obesity is no coincidence. It is not the fat in the foods we eat but, far more, the excess simple carbohydrates from our starch and sugar loaded diets. These

nutritionally deficient diets not only contribute to increased weight but lead to a whole host of health problems. Want to enter the Holiday Season being fit and trim? That belly might look cute on Santa, but on you it is a major health risk. Call to make an appointment for a professional, safe, sensible weight loss program. . DREAMS: THE HIDDEN SECRETS TO ABUNDANCE - a 4 week workshop starting Wed., 07 Nov, call for reservations.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site:

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Nokia plots comeback with Android tablet

MATTI HUUHTANEN

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Nokia is back in the fray.

Just months after selling its ailing handsets business to Microsoft, the Finnish company is planning to go back into the consumer market with a new tablet.

The former top mobile phone maker, which has a history of reinventing itself since it began as a paper maker in the 19th century, said Tuesday it will launch a 7.9-inch device early next year in China, the world's biggest market, before selling it elsewhere.

The device will be manufactured by Foxconn, which makes Apple's handsets. And it will operate Android instead of the Windows software Nokia used on its cellphones when it began a partnership with Microsoft in 2011. That partnership ended unsuccessfully — in April Nokia sold its cellphones unit to Microsoft for \$7.2 billion.

Sebastian Nystrom, head of at Nokia's technologies unit, described the N1 tablet as "a new beginning for Nokia." He noted that about 80

percent of the world's mobile consumers use Android, compared with just 2.5 percent using Windows mobile devices. The aluminum-cased tablet uses Google's Android Lollipop operating system, and will retail for some \$250.

For sure, it won't be an easy shift for Nokia after years of focusing on cellphones and a troubled networks operation that only recently has shown signs of improvement.

"It's pointing in the right direction, but there are some real challenges," said Neil Mawston from Strategy Analytics, near London. "It doesn't have the distribution channels that others like Samsung and Apple enjoy, and nobody is making any profits in Android tablets at the moment."

But Nokia, established in 1865, has demonstrated an ability to reinvent itself.

Named after the small southern Finland town where it was based, it evolved its paper making business into a rubber boots and cable maker before becoming an electronics company. Then it hit on



Sebastian Nystrom, head of Product Business at Nokia Technologies, presents Nokia's new N1 Android Table at the Slush 2014 event in Helsinki, Finland, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

Associated Press

mobile telephony that made it almost synonymous with wireless high-tech, reaching a peak of 40 percent market share in mobile phone sales worldwide in 2008. But, after holding the No.1 spot in cellphones for 14 years, it wasn't able to meet the challenge when Apple in

2007 introduced the iPhone, and also began to lose the competition to cheaper Asian manufacturers.

This year it completed the sale of its mobile phone unit to Microsoft and has since focused on its three, much more profitable operations: networks, HERE map-

ping services and software.

It is one of the few computerized roadmap providers in the world and the only one with a long history of working with automotive companies. HERE has an 80 percent market share for embedded automotive maps.

Nokia's brand was wiped out of the handset market last week, when Microsoft unveiled its first Lumia smartphone under its own brand name.

"We are pleased to bring the Nokia brand back into consumers' hands," said Nystrom.

He hinted Nokia was also interested in producing an Android smartphone. That can't happen before 2016, however, as the Microsoft deal included a commitment that Nokia not enter the smartphone business before then.

"Once that is finalized we have the option to do so," Nystrom told the AP. Nokia's share price was up more than 2 percent at 6.34 euros in late trading in Helsinki. □

Facebook launches new app for its Groups feature

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is launching a new free mobile app for its popular Groups feature that let users create and interact with communities on the site, whether they're based on hobbies, geography or culture.

Facebook Inc. has been working to expand its presence on people's mobile devices by creating — and buying — apps such as Messenger, Paper, Instagram and WhatsApp. The apps Facebook created from scratch through its Creative Labs have faced varying levels of success.

Paper, a mobile news

reader, hasn't really caught on. Slingshot was launched as a rival to the ephemeral messaging service Snapchat but it hasn't been much of one. Facebook declined to provide user figures for Creative Labs apps on Tuesday. Messenger, which is not from the company's Creative Labs division, has fared much better, though it helped that Facebook essentially forced users to download it after it removed the messaging functionality from its main app.

Unlike with Messenger, though, the company says it won't require people to use the stand-alone app if

they want to use Facebook Groups. They will be able to access Groups through the Facebook app or for free on the website.

More than 700 million of Facebook's 1.35 billion members use Groups, according to the company. People use the groups to talk to others who share their religion, to plan holiday dinners, or to discuss hobbies or health issues, for example. Shirley Sun, product manager at Facebook, said there are "hundreds of millions" of groups on Facebook.

The new app lets people manage their existing groups or discover new ones, either based on



This product image provided by Facebook shows the company's new Groups app. Groups lets users create and interact with communities on the site, whether they're based on hobbies, geography or culture.

Associated Press

recommendations or by searching for different topics. Users can also create a shortcut on their phone's screen for their favorite group if they want to access it quickly. □

Wall Street rallies on Japan relief

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Investors remained in a record-setting mood Tuesday, edging the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index to their latest all-time highs. Pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies led the broad pickup in stocks, extending gains for the S&P 500 and Dow. The Nasdaq notched its first gain this week. A positive outlook from homebuilders and encouraging news from Japan and Germany also helped lift markets. The rally builds on a market rebound in recent weeks powered by strong corpo-

Germany's ZEW measure of investor sentiment showed an improvement in November after 10 months of declines, allaying worries about a slowing economy and lifting European markets. Developments in Japan, whose economy slipped into recession in the third quarter, provided some relief. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index rose 2.2 percent amid expectations, later confirmed, that Japan's government will delay a sales tax hike that was planned for next year. U.S. stocks also got a boost from an increase in a measure of U.S. homebuilders' confidence, which rebounded in November

percent, to 2,051.80. Its previous closing high was set Monday. The Dow rose 40.07 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,687.82. That's just 0.2 percent higher than its most recent record close last Thursday. Nine of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 notched gains, led by health care stocks. The sector is up 23.5 percent this year. Telecommunications stocks declined. On Oct. 15 the S&P 500 nearly fell into a "correction," a trading term for a drop of 10 percent or more from a recent peak. The market has mostly risen since then. The rise in Actavis came a day after the company agreed to buy Botox-maker



Halliburton Chairman, President and CEO David Lesar, third from right, rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. In a deal that shows just how quickly falling prices can upend the energy industry, Halliburton is buying rival oilfield services company Baker Hughes for cash and stock worth \$34.6 billion.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

rate earnings and easing concerns among investors about the spread of Ebola and economic growth overseas. "We've gotten good news on all of the worries since mid-October and we had much better-than-expected earnings," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones. "As a result, it's not surprising we're seeing a series of record highs." The major stock indexes opened flat on Monday, but quickly began to rise.

as both sales expectations and buyer traffic improved. The indexes continued to build on their gains throughout the day as investors piled into health care stocks. Pharmaceutical giant Actavis led all stocks in the S&P 500, vaulting 8.7 percent. Medical device maker Medtronic climbed 3.3 percent. The energy sector lagged the rest of the market as the price of oil resumed its slide. All told, the S&P 500 index added 10.48 points, or 0.5

Allergan for \$66 billion. Actavis rose \$21.66 to \$269.60. "Actavis is up strong, so that suggests it's a better take on the merger deal, as people get more into the details of it," said Warne. Medtronic shares ended up \$3.28 at \$72.47. Investors kept rewarding strong company earnings. Solar power products company JA Solar jumped 8.8 percent after it reported better-than-expected quarterly financial results. The stock added 69 cents to \$8.49.



Builders work on the roof of a new home under construction in Upper Makefield, Pa. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo released its monthly index of builder sentiment on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

US homebuilder sentiment rallies strong in November

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. homebuilders' confidence rebounded in November as both sales expectations and buyer traffic improved. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo index rose to 58 this month, up from 54 in October. That puts the index just short of September's reading of 59, which was the highest level since November 2005, shortly before the housing bubble burst. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor. The index released Tuesday found sentiment had improved in the Northeast, Midwest, South and West. Builders expect sales to increase through the next six months.

Still, other indicators show that rising builder optimism has not necessarily been paired with a significant improvement in sales. Purchases of new homes were nearly flat in September, the Commerce Department reported. The pace of sales for newly built homes has improved a mere 1.7 percent so far this year compared to 2013, putting it below overall economic growth. When the builder index was at a similar level in early 2006, the number of single-family housing starts was about 60 percent higher, noted Joshua Shapiro, chief U.S. economist

at the forecasting firm MFR. "There remains a big disconnect between what homebuilders are saying and what they are actually doing," Shapiro said. Most economists expect that the National Association of Realtors will report Thursday that sales of existing homes fell slightly in October. Despite improved buying activity in recent months, sales in 2014 are still projected to lag last year's total of 5.1 million. Sales of about 5.5 million homes are generally associated with a healthy real estate market. Rising prices in 2013 have cut into affordability for would-be buyers, limiting sales growth for new homes and cutting into sales for existing homes. On average last year, home prices rose at roughly six times the pace of wages, which limited the benefits of historically low mortgage rates. Even as home price growth has moderated in recent months, the prices continue to rise at more than double the annual increase in wages. Average hourly pay for non-supervisory workers has risen a meager 2.2 percent over the past year to \$20.70, the Labor Department reported earlier this month. Just 59 percent of homes sold across the United States are affordable on a middle class income, compared to 62 percent last year, the real estate data firm Trulia said Tuesday.

Home Depot tops Street; breach costs still hazy

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

AP Business Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Home Depot's third-quarter profit rose 14 percent as comparable-store sales climbed in the U.S., suggesting that a huge data breach announced exactly two months ago has not shaken the faith of its customers.

The nation's biggest home improvement retailer stuck to its outlook for all of 2014, but said that it could not account for all possible losses from a data breach it revealed in September that affected 56 million debit and credit cards. For now, the company is putting those costs at \$28 million pretax for the most recent quarter, and \$34 million as it pertains to its guidance for 2014.

Home Depot said Monday during a call with investors that it anticipates a fourth-quarter breach-related expense of about \$27 million, but only about \$6 million after insurance. The company has a \$100 million insurance policy for breach-related expenses, according to Chief Financial Officer Carol Tome.

Accounting for all breach-related expenses, the company on Monday projected operating expenses this year to grow at about 27 percent of its overall sales growth rate.

For the three months ended Nov. 2, Home Depot earned \$1.54 billion, or \$1.15 per share. That compares with \$1.35 billion, or 95 cents per share, a year earlier.

The housing sector had been hit hard early in the year by both bad weather and tight conditions in the market due to rising mortgage rates and a tight supply of homes.

That dragged down the earnings of home improvement retailers, yet Home Depot appears to be distancing itself from those early rough months, beating Wall Street's per-share expectations by a couple cents, according to a poll of analysts by Zacks Investment Research.

"While we think the stock

reaction will be relatively muted today, any significant weakness would make an even better buy-

Revenue for the Atlanta company climbed 5 percent to \$20.52 billion from \$19.47 billion. That also

cent. In the U.S., those sales increased 5.8 percent. Same-store sales are a key gauge for investors be-

Michael Lasser of UBS said comparable-store sales were relatively consistent month to month, suggesting that the data breach didn't have much of an impact.

CEO Craig Menear said that online sales rose nearly 40 percent in the quarter, with increased traffic and more online orders being picked up in stores during the period.

Home Depot maintained its forecast for fiscal 2014 earnings of about \$4.54 per share. It still expects sales to climb approximately 4.8 percent.

Analysts polled by FactSet predict full-year earnings of \$4.51 per share.

Home Depot said that going forward, costs related to its data breach may include liabilities to payment card networks for reimbursements of credit card fraud and card reissuance costs; liabilities from current and future civil litigation, governmental investigations and enforcement proceedings and other potential costs. □



A customer leaves at a Home Depot store in Matthews, N.C., Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Home Depot's third-quarter profit rose 14 percent as comparable-store sales climbed in the U.S., suggesting that a huge data breach announced two months ago has not shaken the faith of its customers.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

ing opportunity as we remain comfortable in the longer term housing recovery thesis," wrote Citigroup analyst Kate McShane.

beat the \$20.42 billion in revenue that analysts had expected.

Sales at stores open at least a year rose 5.2 per-

cause they exclude volatility from recently opened or closed locations, and provide a better look at a retailer's core health.

US producer prices rise 0.2 percent in October

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation picked up in October due to higher prices that U.S. companies received for new model cars, beef, pork, pharmaceuticals and electric power.

The producer price index increased 0.2 percent in October from the previous month, the Labor Department said Tuesday. The index measures the cost of goods and services before they reach the consumer. Prices for many products climbed even as wholesale gas costs plummeted 5.8 percent last month. Automakers contributed to inflation by introducing 2015 car models, with the Labor Department adjusting its producer prices report each October to address the improved quality. Beef prices jumped 6 percent and pork prices surged 8.1 percent.

Excluding the volatile categories of food and energy,

prices rose 0.4 percent in October. Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that increasing producer prices was partially

ponent of the index that measures wholesale and retail margins to rise.

"The jump," Shepherdson said, "reflects a technicality and does not signal a

cent to \$2.89 a gallon, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge.

Falling energy costs have restricted inflation in the broader economy. Producer rises increased only 1.6 percent in the 12 months ending in September, a rate substantially lower than the Federal Reserve target.

The Fed targets inflation at about 2 percent to protect against deflation, since falling prices could pull down wages and potentially trigger another recession. At the same time, the Fed target is designed to stop inflation from running so high that it could erode the buying power of consumers and businesses, which could also cause a recession.

Limited inflation for producers has also kept costs low for consumers. A separate government measure of consumer prices has risen just 1.7 percent in the 12 months ended in August. □



Tom Peters moves material for roof rails on the production line for the 2015 Ford F-150 at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Dearborn, Mich. The Labor Department released the Producer Price Index for October on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

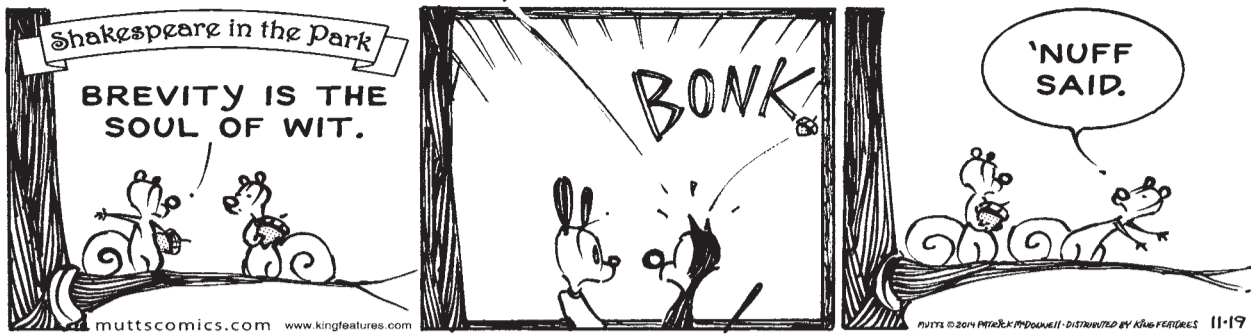
the result of a "technicality" in how the index is calculated.

When gas prices fall, gas stations temporarily record higher profits and that briefly causes the com-

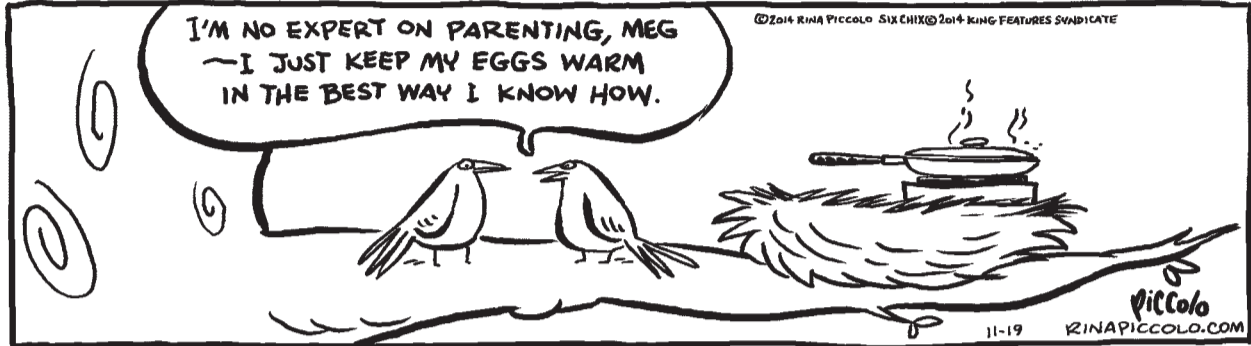
turn in the trend."

Ongoing declines in fuel prices have been a benefit for most Americans. Over the past month, average gas prices nationwide have plunged nearly 8 per-

Mutts



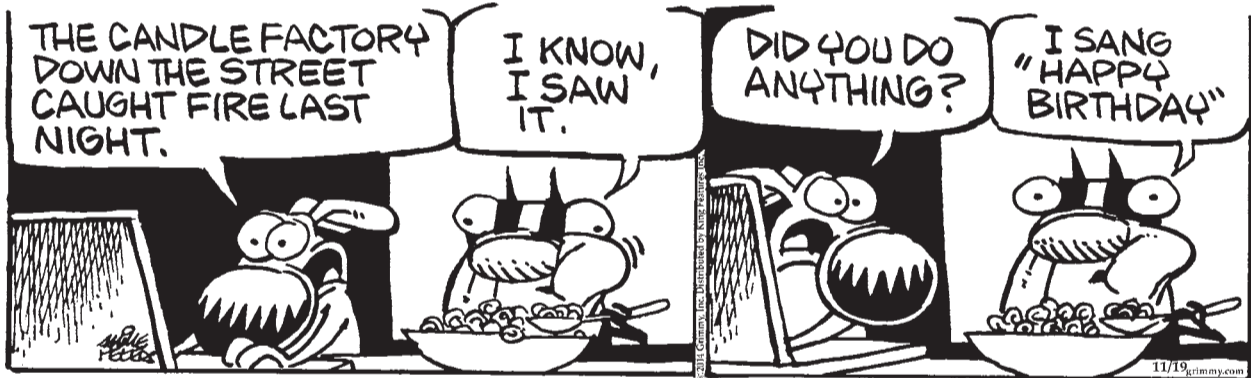
6 Chix



Blondie



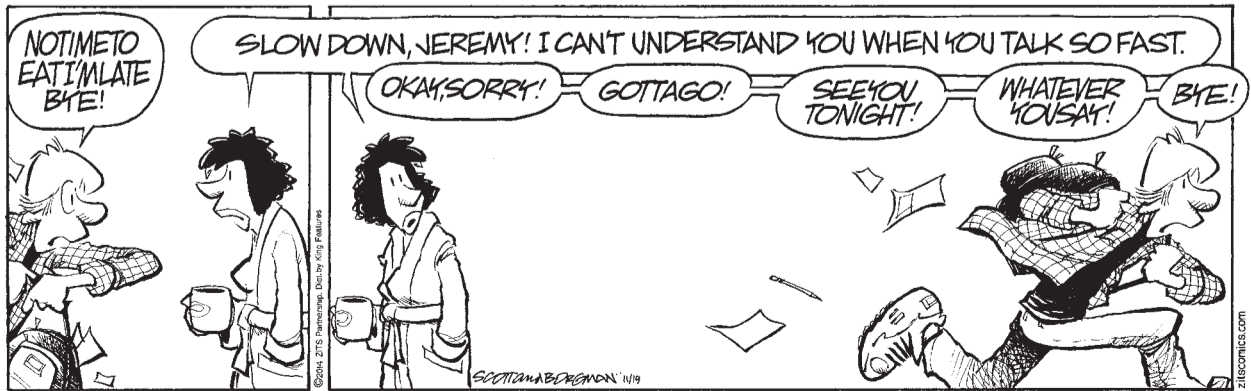
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9	3	8	2	4		
	2						1	
5								
9								
6			4	9	5	2	8	
1								7
8								3
	7					4		
		6	7	2	1	9		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	1	6	5	3	9	8	7	2
9	2	3	7	8	6	4	1	5
7	5	8	4	1	2	3	6	9
3	9	7	8	2	1	5	4	6
8	6	2	9	5	4	1	3	7
5	4	1	3	6	7	2	9	8
2	3	4	6	7	8	9	5	1
6	8	9	1	4	5	7	2	3
1	7	5	2	9	3	6	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★

11/18

ACROSS

- Bookcase level
- a test; passes easily
- One of the Three Bears
- Blanket
- Hawaiian feast
- Grows older
- Give a speech
- Make indistinct
- Ocean bird
- Cleaned one's hands
- Surrey top's fancy edge
- Actor Sandler
- Go in again
- Zigzag skiing
- Mysterious
- Feel sick
- Dispositions
- Least favorite chicken pieces
- Whip
- African nation
- up; absorb
- Girl Scout group
- Procrastinator's word
- Actress MacGraw
- Certain berth
- Was ; suffered defeat
- Nearly alike
- Disarray
- Practical jokes
- Cool side dish
- Walkway
- Wahine's dance
- Innocent; unsophisticated
- "It is what "
- Prince Harry's alma mater
- Fearful and shy
- Relaxing drinks
- Ruby & scarlet
- Snow toys

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28				29						
30			31	32			33	34	35	36		
37		38	39			40		41				
42			43	44			45	46				
47						49	50					
51	52	53				54						
55						56			57	58	59	
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/19/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SCAR	GHANA	SOFT
TORE	RIDER	KNEE
ALMS	AVOID	ICED
RESERVE	GODDESS	
NAY	SHRED	
GUSTY	PAS	PEACE
OPTS	TAU	DODDER
ASA	LAWSUIT	MAI
LEGION	AND	RISE
STEMS	AGO	MUTES
MERGE	LAP	
ALGERIA	CAPTURE	
LOAN	OTHER	UPOR
ELMS	THANK	ROAR
GLEE	SALTS	ENDS

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11/19/14

- Gabor and Longoria
- Deadly
- Liberty
- Scrapbook
- Actor Robert
- Thirsty
- Parisian's need
- Wave rider
- Afternoon performances
- GEICO employee, e.g.
- Come together
- Actor Ed
- Runyon or Wayans
- Harness strap
- Adjust a clock
- and pepper
- Dishonest one
- Additionally
- Allan Poe
- Refueling ship
- Outer garment
- Leafy veggie
- Dermatologist's concern
- Sanctity

DOWN

- Flat-bottomed hauling boat
- Dance at a Bar Mitzvah

- Refuse to obey
- President
- James K.
- Feels miffed about
- Large home appliance
- Attack
- Divide up
- Furious
- Craze
- and groans
- Clumsy fellow
- Green citrus
- Gung ho
- Marries
- University of Utah athlete

US says Government aircraft regulations apply to drones

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has the power to hold drone operators accountable when they operate the remote-control aircraft recklessly, a federal safety board ruled Tuesday in a setback to small drone operators chafing under Federal Aviation Administration restrictions.

The National Transportation safety Board, which hears appeals of Federal Aviation Administration enforcement actions, ruled that small drones are a type of aircraft and fall under existing FAA rules.

The FAA had fined Raphael Pirker, an aerial photographer, \$10,000 for operating his Ritewing Zephyr in a reckless manner on the University of Virginia campus in 2011. Pirker allegedly flew the drone, which weighed less than 5 pounds, (2 kilograms) at "extremely low" altitudes, including under a pedestrian bridge and directly at a person, causing the individual to duck out of the way. He had been hired to make photos and videos of the campus. Pirker appealed the fine, saying his aircraft was effectively no different than a model aircraft and therefore not subject to regulations that apply to manned aircraft. An NTSB administrative law judge sided with him in March, saying the FAA hasn't issued any regulations specifically for drones and therefore can't determine their use.

The FAA appealed the decision to the four-member safety board, which said Tuesday that the definition of an aircraft is very broad.

"An 'aircraft' is any 'device' 'used for flight in the air.' This definition includes any aircraft, manned or unmanned, large or small," the board said. The board sent the case back to the judge to decide if Pirker's drone was operated recklessly.

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3 BEDRM OV \$17k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

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24/7

Scientists 'confident' comet lander will wake up

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A burst of sunshine in the spring could be just the wakeup call for Europe's comet lander.

Scientists raised hopes Monday that as the Philae lander nears the sun its solar panel-powered battery will recharge, and the first spacecraft to touch down on a comet will send a second round of scientific data back to Earth.

Since landing with a bounce on the comet Wednesday, Philae has already sent back reams of data that scientists are eagerly examining. But there were fears its mission would be cut short because it came to rest in the shadow of a cliff. Its signal went silent Saturday after its primary battery ran out.

Shortly before that happened, the European Space Agency decided to attempt to tilt the lander's biggest solar panel toward the sun — a last-ditch maneuver that scientists believe may have paid off.

"We are very confident at some stage it will wake up again and we can achieve contact," Stephan Ulamec, the lander manager, told The Associated Press. That should happen next spring, when Philae and the comet it's riding on — called 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko — get closer to the sun, warming up a secondary battery on board and bringing it out of its unplanned hibernation. A few days of sunshine on the solar panels should be enough to charge the battery sufficiently to resume collecting scientific data, Ulamec said.

Philae's position in the shadows may even prove to be a blessing in disguise. Shielded from the sun's



This image released by the European Space Agency ESA Nov. 13, 2014 was taken by Philae's down-looking descent ROLIS imager when it was about 40 meters (131 feet) above the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko .

Associated Press

rays, the lander could survive for longer as the comet approaches perihelion — its closest point to the sun — in August.

Before they can say for certain if they'll be able to restore contact with Philae, scientists first need to find out where on the 2.5-mile (4-kilometer)-wide comet the washing machine-sized lander is, he added.

New pictures released Monday offered very good clues.

The high-resolution images taken from Philae's mother ship Rosetta show the lander descending toward the comet, then bouncing off when the thrusters and harpoons meant to anchor it to the surface failed. It drifted through the void for two hours before touch-

ing down again — after a second, smaller bounce — then coming to rest in a shallow crater.

Scientists at the German Aerospace Center said Monday that an initial review of data the lander sent back 311 million miles to Earth showed the comet's surface is much tougher than previously assumed. There's also evi-

dence of large amounts of ice beneath the lander. Scientists had speculated the comet's surface could be quite soft, but that has turned out not to be the case. "The strength of the ice found under a layer of dust on the first landing site is surprisingly high," said Klaus Seidensticker of the German Aerospace Center. □

Reality-based networks reaching into scripted TV

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Can a zebra change its stripes?

Not likely. But these days numerous reality-based networks are sporting new stripes in the form of scripted fare as they move to stretch their brand and freshen their look.

Consider:

— TruTV last month added several scripted series to the mix, including the sketch-comedy show "Friends of the People" (airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m. EST).

— Animal Planet is in the scripted swim with "The Whale: Revenge From the Deep," a drama special premiering Nov. 26 starring Martin Sheen. This isn't the network's first scripted program (maybe you recall "Mermaids" a few years ago), but now it's poised to go even further with scripted series as well: An adaptation of the popular zombie animal graphic novel "The Other Dead" is targeted for early 2016.

— Dec. 2 marks the premiere of "Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce," Bravo's first original scripted series, with stars including Lisa Edelstein ("House") and Paul Adelstein ("Private Practice"). It will be followed next year by a half-hour comedy "Odd Mom Out."

— E! has announced its first

scripted drama series, "The Royals," exposing "the upstairs and downstairs lives of a fictional royal family set in modern day London," according to the network. It premieres in March.

— WeTV dipped its toe into scripted series this summer with its legal drama "The Divide."



This image released by Bravo shows Paul Adelstein, from left, Conner Dwelly, Lisa Edelstein, and Dylan Schombing in a scene from "Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce," Bravo's first original scripted series, premiering Dec. 2.

— SundanceTV launched its first drama series, "Rectify," last year, with several others airing since.

— History successfully entered scripted television two years ago with "The Vikings," then struck more ratings gold with its "Hatfields & McCoy's" and "The Bible" miniseries.

Summing up: One way for a network to secure its turf is by advancing into others'. It's a logical response to the battle that niche networks now find themselves waging, says Bravo's senior vice president of development, Lara Spotts, who speaks of "a 'Hunger Games-ian' environment.

you can't NOT ask yourself, 'Is there something we could be doing there?'"

Not only does scripted represent a promised land for boosting audience interest, it's also bursting with creativity at a moment when reality is, by comparison, "a little bit dull, a little bit stagnant," says truTV's

raised the bar for what is a satisfying experience in watching television."

Truth may be stranger than fiction, but capturing truth on camera — and making it look real — is often easier in a fictional form.

"You can really up the ante and up the fun in ways you can't always do with reality," says Jeff Olde, E!'s executive vice president of programming and development. E! specializes in celebrity and glamour, and its audience demands ever more access to those luminaries — the sort of access that would be off-limits from Britain's real-life royals, but, with actors subbing for them, will be guaranteed in the forthcoming scripted "The Royals."

"With scripted," says Olde, "no one says 'No.'"

Of course, the oft-cited divide separating reality from scripted may be a false distinction, at least in the minds of viewers, who are largely savvy to the staging, scripting and editing that make some reality programs less than real.

"We have found that assumptions we had about the boundaries between reality and scripted were never really boundaries for the audience," says Animal Planet executive vice president Rick Holzman. "They were the boxes we created in our heads." □

Lawyer: Tracy Morgan still recovering from brain injury

DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP) — A lawyer for Tracy Morgan said Tuesday the actor-comedian is still recovering from a brain injury sustained in a highway crash in New Jersey more than five months ago.

Lawyer Benedict Morelli said Tuesday the former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" star suffered a traumatic brain injury in the June 7 crash on the New Jersey Turnpike, in addition to a broken leg, nose and ribs.

Lawyers were in court in

New Jersey for a scheduling conference in Morgan's lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

A Wal-Mart truck slammed into the back of a limo van that was carrying Morgan and several friends on their way from a show in Delaware. One person was killed, and three others were injured, two seriously. Morgan spent several weeks in the hospital and in rehab.

Morgan sued for punitive and compensatory damages. In a response to the lawsuit filed in late September, Wal-Mart contended

the victims' injuries were partly due to the fact that they weren't wearing seatbelts.

Morgan wasn't at Tuesday's proceeding, which was convened to settle on a schedule.

Truck driver Kevin Roper, who is not named in Morgan's lawsuit, was charged with death by auto and four counts of assault by auto in state court. Last Friday, he filed to have Morgan's lawsuit delayed while that case proceeds. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for mid-December.



In this April 9, 2014 file photo, actor Tracy Morgan attends the FX Networks Upfront premiere screening of "Fargo" at the SVA Theater in New York.

A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board released in June said Roper was driving 65 mph in the 60 seconds before he slammed

into the van. The speed limit on that stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction. □

Director Angelina Jolie wants 'Unbroken' to be tale of hope

SYDNEY (AP) — Angelina Jolie says she took on the challenge of filming "Unbroken," which has defeated many before her, because she wanted to create a story of hope. The second-time director is in Australia promoting the new film, the survival story of Olympic and World War II hero Louis Zamperini. "I wanted to learn from Louis and be around this great man, but I wanted to put something out in the world that reminded us all of the strength of the human spirit and brotherhood and faith and all of the things that will, in the end, get us through these dark times," Jolie said. Universal Studios purchased the rights to Laura Hillenbrand's book "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" in 2011, but it took the involvement of Jolie and screenwriters Joel and Ethan Coen to finally bring it to the big screen. "The fundamental turn in it becoming a movie was when Angelina came on," said producer Matt Baer at a news conference Tuesday. "She had the so-



Angelina Jolie, who directed and produced the film "Unbroken," poses for a photo after a press conference following the movie's world premiere in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Associated Press

lutions to what had ailed the script prior, which was being able to figure out structurally along with the Coen brothers how to craft a movie that played with time and still maintained the essence of the character." "Unbroken" was mostly shot in the Australian state of New South Wales and premiered in Sydney on Monday. It's scheduled to be released in the U.S. on Christmas Day. British-born actor Jack O'Connell stars as Zamperini, who survived 47 days drifting in a life-raft at sea and was later a Japa-

nese prisoner-of-war. As part of the audition, O'Connell was locked in a dark cell and beaten with a rubber baton — but that was only the beginning of the difficulties he faced in the lead role. "The biggest challenge of my life yeah, easily. It all accumulates to one pretty enormous test for me as an actor. But the whole time I had Louis' example constantly dwarfing whatever hardship I was experiencing. So once you accept the reality there, it would be very inconsistent of me to start feeling sorry for myself then." □

Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel honored by ASCAP

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stevie Wonder gave an emotional speech that silenced the crowd, Garth Brooks was misty eyed and Billy Joel was classic when he performed "New York State of Mind." The ASCAP Centennial Awards on Monday night honored the musical icons — including Joan Baez and Stephen Sondheim — at a gala in New York City. "It is an amazing world when you think about writing songs and talking about things when people say, 'How can you write about that and you can't see them?' But the reality is seeing is feeling them; feeling them is in the spirit," Wonder, 64, told the crowd at the Waldorf Astoria. "You hear (about) pictures about how someone looks and you write songs

like 'Isn't She Lovely' — a song I wrote about my first child, Aisha," he continued. "You write songs like 'If It's Magic' because you say, 'What is the most magical thing in the world?' And the most magical thing I see in the world is love." Wonder closed the night, singing such staples as "Superstition." Grammy-winning R&B singer India.Arie honored the legend with a medley of songs including "Blame It on the Sun" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You." She said she failed a Greek art class in college because she spent too much time writing down Wonder lyrics. Motown founder Berry Gordy also paid tribute to Wonder. Instead of saying positive things about the icon — because he said he has done it repeatedly at other events — he told



Stevie Wonder speaks as his partner Tomeeka Robyn Bracy listens at the 2014 ASCAP Centennial Awards, benefiting the ASCAP Foundation and its music education, talent development and humanitarian activities, at the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

the crowd some of Wonder's flaws. □



In this Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005 file photo, Ken Takakura, the main actor in his latest film "Qian Li Zou Dan Qi," which means, "riding alone for a thousand li" (500 kilometers; 300 miles), during a press promotion in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Japan actor Ken Takakura, known for stoic heroes, dies

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Ken Takakura, a craggy-faced, quiet star known for playing outlaws and stoic heroes in scores of Japanese films, has died of lymphoma. He was 83. Perhaps best known abroad for his police inspector role in Ridley Scott's "Black Rain" in 1989, Takakura died Nov. 10 at a Tokyo hospital where he was treated for the illness, according to his office and media reports Tuesday. He surged to stardom after his 1956 debut, becoming an icon in yakuza films such as "Abashiri Prison" in the 1960s. Much of his appeal to the Japanese public stemmed from his image as a hero fighting authority figures on behalf of the poor and weak. But in a career spanning more than 200 films he sometimes played comic roles, such as his 1992 portrayal of a coach in "Mr. Baseball." Likened to Clint Eastwood, Takakura starred in detective stories and dramas including the 1977 film "The Yellow Handkerchief" and 1999's "Railroad Man," which won him a best actor award at the Montreal World Film Festival. The news of his death topped Japanese news programs almost nonstop, and major newspapers distributed extras in downtown Tokyo.

Unlike many Japanese celebrities, Takakura shunned the usual rounds of television variety shows and melodramas, maintaining a John Wayne-like aura of toughness. Born in 1931 as Goichi Oda in Fukuoka, southern Japan, he was recruited by a major film production while he was applying for a managerial position. Takakura's friends and admirers described him as humble, honest and reserved in his real life, too. "He was the last big star (in Japan)," said Shintaro Ishihara, 82, an award-winning writer and politician. "And yet, Ken-san lived a really healthy, sound life, unlike many other stars who often end up paying the price later on." Even though he played many outlaw roles in yakuza films, Takakura said today's gangster movies didn't interest him. "I like movies that picture the human heart and linger with me," he told an interviewer of the Japan Subculture Research Center. "The Deer Hunter," "Gladiator," and "The Godfather" were among his favorites, he said. In the 2012 award-winning "Dearest," the last of Takakura's films, he plays a retired prison warden who goes on a soul-searching trip with a postcard that arrived after his wife's death. □

Putin Plays Hardball



JOE NOCERA
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This week marks the fifth anniversary of Sergei Magnitsky's death in a Russian prison. He was 37 years old, a member of the emerging middle class who worked as a lawyer for a man named Bill Browder, the leader of the largest Russia-only investment firm in the world. Browder's company, Hermitage Capital Management, started with \$25 million during the Wild West-era of early Russian capitalism and had \$4.5 billion in assets by the early 2000s.

Over time, Browder became an activist investor of sorts, exposing corruption in Russian companies and trying to make Russian capitalism more transparent. In doing so, he thought, he could both steer Russian companies a little closer to the Western model while also making money for his firm.

But, when Vladimir Putin became the president of Russia in 2000, he and his cronies were not interested in corporate transparency. How could they line their pockets if everything was transacted out in the open? So Browder became persona non grata. After a trip to Britain in 2005, he was refused re-entry. A few fictitious documents later, and Hermitage had \$1 billion in "liabilities." Then, a handful of officials involved in a takeover of Hermitage requested - and received within 24 hours! - a \$230 million tax refund. It was a textbook example of the kind of corporate pillaging for which the Putin kleptocracy became infamous.

Browder pleaded with Magnitsky to flee the country, as his other lawyers had done. But Magnitsky insisted on investigating - and speaking out about - the fraud that had taken place. For his troubles, he was imprisoned in 2008. By summer of 2009, he had developed pancreatitis, which went untreated despite his pleas. He died that November. Browder says that when he learned of Magnitsky's death, it was "the worst news I had ever received in my life."

Ever since, Browder has worked to find some way to extract some justice on Magnitsky's behalf. Well before the current Western sanctions on Russia, for instance, Browder pushed for travel and financial sanctions to be imposed on the Russian officials who were involved in Magnitsky's imprisonment. In December 2012, Congress

passed a bill that did just that, called the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. Browder continues to push for similar laws in various European countries.

As you might expect, given the pugnacious nature of Putin's government, Russia hasn't take this law lying down. The first thing it did was halt U.S. adoption of Russian children. It has given promotions to several officials who were sanctioned. And it has also continued to go after both Browder and, believe it or not, the deceased Magnitsky. In July 2013, Russia put both Magnitsky and Browder on trial. The two men were accused of tax evasion going back to 2001 - despite the fact that the statute of limitation in Russia for tax evasion is 10 years. It was the first posthumous trial in Russia's history. The judge in the case was among those who were on the U.S. sanctions list. To the surprise of no one, Magnitsky and Browder were both convicted, one posthumously and the other in absentia.

There is another thing the Putin government has been doing to get back at Browder. It has made repeated attempts to have him put on Interpol's "Red Notice" list - which is a kind of international wanted-poster for fugitives. The idea is that when a person on the list is arrested in one country, he or she would be handed over to the country where he or she is wanted.

Interpol has long been accused of allowing its Red Notices to be used for political purposes. A year ago, a group called Fair Trials International released a report accusing a handful of countries of using Interpol to cause problems for dissidents and activists - among them Belarus, Turkey, Iran and Russia. The first attempt came in May 2013. Browder succeeded in pushing it back. The second attempt came two months later - soon after Browder's nine-year sentence by a Moscow court. Again, Interpol declined to issue a Red Notice on Browder.

This past winter, a Russian delegation visited Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France, to press its case. Thanks to last year's trial, Russia could now say that Browder had been convicted of a crime.

Sure enough, Interpol - which, just two weeks ago, installed a new secretary-general, a German lawyer named Juergen Stock - has agreed to once again entertain the idea of labeling Browder a fugitive from Russian justice. It is scheduled to make its decision later this week.

You would think that Putin's government has enough to worry about these days, between the crisis in Ukraine, Western sanctions, and the fall in the price of oil, which could push the Russian economy into recession. But, apparently, there is always time to attack Bill Browder. □



When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 4



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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When I write about racial inequality in America, one common response from whites is eye-rolling and an emphatic: It's time to move on.

"As whites, are we doomed to an eternity of apology?" Neil tweeted at me. "When does individual responsibility kick in?" Terry asked on my Facebook page: "Why are we still being held to actions that took place long ago?"

"How long am I supposed to feel guilty about being white? I bust my hump at work and refrain from living a thug life," Bradley chimed in. "America is about personal responsibility. ... And really, get past the slavery issue."

This is the fourth installment in a series of columns I've written this year, "When Whites Just Don't Get It," and plenty of white readers have responded with anger and frustration at what they see as the "blame game" on race.

They acknowledge a horrific history of racial discrimination but also say that we should look forward, not backward. The Supreme Court seems to share this view as it dismantles civil-rights-era rulings on voting rights.

As Dina puts it: "I am tired of the race conversation. It has exasperated me. Just stop. In so many industries, the racial ceiling has been shattered. Our president is black. From that moment on, there were no more excuses."

If only it were so simple! Indeed, a wave of research over the last 20 years has documented the lingering effects of slavery in the United States and South America alike. For

example, counties in America that had a higher proportion of slaves in 1860 are still more unequal today, according to a scholarly paper published in 2010. The authors called this a "persistent effect of slavery."

One reason seems to be that areas with slave labor were ruled for the benefit of elite plantation owners. Public schools, libraries and legal institutions lagged, holding back working-class whites as well as blacks.

Whites often don't realize that slavery didn't truly end until long after the Civil War. Douglas Blackmon won a Pulitzer Prize for his devastating history, "Slavery by Another Name," that recounted how U.S. Steel and other American corporations used black slave labor well into the 20th century, through "convict leasing." Blacks would be arrested for made-up offenses such as "vagrancy" and then would be leased to companies as slave laborers.

Job and housing discrimination also systematically prevented blacks from accumulating wealth. The Federal Housing Administration and other initiatives greatly expanded home ownership and the middle class but deliberately excluded blacks.

That's one reason why black families have, on average, only about 6 percent as much wealth as white households, why only 44 percent of black families own a home compared with 73 percent for white households.

The inequality continues, particularly in education. De jure segregated schools have been replaced in some areas by de facto segregation.

Those of us who are white have a remarkable capacity for delusions. A majority of whites have said in opinion polls that blacks earn as much as whites and are as healthy as whites. In fact, black median household income is \$34,598, compared with \$58,270 for non-Hispanic whites, according to census data. Black life expectancy is four years shorter than that of whites.

Granted, race is just one thread in a tapestry. The daughters of

President and Michelle Obama shouldn't enjoy affirmative action preference (as their dad has acknowledged), while disadvantaged white kids should. Yet one element of white privilege today is obliviousness to privilege, including a blithe disregard of the way past subjugation shapes present disadvantage.

I've been on a book tour lately. By coincidence, so has one of my Times Op-Ed columnist colleagues, Charles Blow, who is African-American and the author of a powerful memoir, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones." I grew up in a solid middle-class household; Charles was primarily raised by a single mom who initially worked plucking poultry in a factory, and also, for a while, by a grandma in a house with no plumbing.

That Charles has become a New York Times columnist does not mean that blacks and whites today have equal access to opportunity, just that some talented and driven blacks manage to overcome the long odds against them. Make no mistake: Charles had to climb a higher mountain than I did.

We all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors.

We're in a relay race, relying on the financial and human capital of our parents and grandparents. Blacks were shackled for the early part of that relay race, and although many of the fetters have come off, whites have developed a huge lead. Do we ignore this long head start - a facet of white privilege - and pretend that the competition is now fair?

Of course not. If we whites are ahead in the relay race of life, shouldn't we acknowledge that we got this lead in part by generations of oppression? Aren't we big enough to make amends by trying to spread opportunity, by providing disadvantaged black kids an education as good as the one afforded privileged white kids?

Can't we at least acknowledge that in the case of race, William Faulkner was right: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." □

Pop Health: Inventing a Drybar for Meditation

BROOKS BARNES

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LOS ANGELES - I'll just be honest: I expected Suze Yalof Schwartz and her new guided meditation studio to be highly annoying.

A former *Vogue* and *Glamour* editor, Schwartz, 47, leaves New York and settles on the west side of Los Angeles, land of the liposuctioned soccer mom. She opens Unplug, calling it "a SoulCycle for meditation," a reference to the exercise-and-empowerment chain. Her cutely contradictory slogan: "Hurry up and slow down."

Oh, yes. In a snap, I was convinced that I knew what this would be: pop health at its most maddening, a mob scene of judgmental Brentwood women. And then I actually went. Meditation, rooted in Buddhism and greatly varied in method, has long been mainstream. Joel S. Goldsmith's "Art of Meditation," first published in 1957, has sold millions of copies. Oprah Winfrey and Deepak Chopra now regularly offer 21-day meditation experiences in which people (some 3.2 million worldwide so far) practice living in the moment by listening to Internet audio recordings. But for a lot of people, the practice still has a better-than-thou New Agey whiff, which, as it turns out, is something that Schwartz is trying to vanquish.

"The people who need to meditate are lawyers and bankers and stressed-out mommies," she told me, smiling sweetly. "And those people get turned off by the Buddhas and sage and all the woo-woo talk. I wanted Unplug to be meditation for Type A personalities: clean, modern, secular, effortless to attend." Schwartz, who used to appear regularly on "Good Morning America" and other television shows to speak about fashion and give beauty makeovers, added that her TV training influenced her class structure. "They're like a good 'GMA' segment," she said. "Fun

and tightly edited. I tell my teachers, 'Don't go on and on when you can say the same thing in a minute.' " Unplug, which Schwartz opened seven months ago, in many ways looks like a typical Pilates or yoga studio. There is a sleek check-in area with cubbyholes for shoes and mobile devices, which must be turned off, and a small gift shop. (Sample item: a \$25 wristwatch with the word "now" on the face instead of numbers.) The main attraction is a spacious classroom. Black mats fan out on the hard-

dation. Stressed out by the move, Schwartz, who has three young sons, tried meditation on the advice of her mother-in-law, a psychotherapist. She took a four-day Vedic meditation course, a six-week "mindfulness" course at the University of California, Los Angeles, and did four Oprah & Deepak series. "It was really hard to find a real-world class that didn't cost two weeks of your salary or require a big time commitment," she said. "I thought: 'Where is the Drybar of meditation? Where

hour traffic and being whined at on my cellphone by an unhappy publicist. As I arrived at the studio, a guy in a minivan blasted his horn; I responded with a certain finger. Zen? Not so much. There were 15 other people in the class. Half were men, including a cranky-looking guy in a T-shirt that read, "I used to be a people person, but people ruined that for me." Only one woman seemed like the ooey-gooey mantra-spouting type. About a third of the people raised their hands when Schwartz, perched on that

on what matters." What mattered was breathing, a lot of breathing, and my mind soon began to meander. "All of this breathing is exhausting," I thought at one point. "Oh, no. How horrifying! I'm so out of shape that I can't even breathe without getting winded." A purr from Schwartz jolted me back to the present. "Are your thoughts wandering?" she said. "Totally normal. Let it go." When it was over, I felt pretty darn good: uncluttered. The rest of my day seemed to go more slowly,



Suze Yalof Schwartz, a former magazine editor in New York, at Unplug in Los Angeles in November, 2014. Unplug, Schwartz' new Los Angeles meditation studio, tries to vanish the New Age vibe a lot of people associate with the practice. "I wanted Unplug to be meditation for Type A personalities: clean, modern, secular, effortless to attend," she said.

(Kendrick Brinson/The New York Times)

wood floor. Thick drapes cover the windows; glowing pink and violet ceiling lights create a James Turrell feeling. A mystical cello-and-piano soundtrack plays on loop. The instructor generally sits cross-legged on a little white box at the front next to a Tibetan singing bowl, two candles and a vase of fresh flowers. After living in Manhattan for 21 years, Schwartz moved to California four years ago, when her husband, Marc Schwartz, took a job as chief investment officer for the Broad Foun-

can you walk in feeling icky and walk out feeling great?" She set out to create one, or at least try. Unplug offers about 30 weekly classes, ranging from 30 minutes to 45 minutes and varying greatly in type. A single session costs \$20; monthly unlimited memberships are \$150. Schwartz said Unplug turned its first monthly profit in October. My introduction to Unplug came on a Thursday morning. Running late, I wolfed down my breakfast in the car while navigating rush-

little box, asked if anyone was new to meditation. I was. While not exactly a meditation virgin (I did the "Finding Your Flow" Oprah & Deepak series in April), I had never gone to a studio. We had been given legal pads and pens upon arrival, and Schwartz (who did not yet know I was a reporter) told us to write down our thoughts. I wrote, "work, traffic, work, minivan jerk." "OK," Schwartz said in a cooing tone, "delete everything on that page. None of it matters. Focus

as if I were in charge of the world instead of the world being in charge of me. I came back for a few more sessions, at one point taking along my friend Andrew Zipern, a more experienced meditator, to see what he thought. "Very solid, and I liked that there wasn't a lot of New Age hokum," he said. "Hard-core people may have a hard time with the aesthetic, which is very MoMA Design Store, but those people are probably already going somewhere else anyway." □